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19 SEPTEMBER 1986

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

CONTENTS

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

- Uruguay, Brazil Sign New Trade Agreements
(Julian Gonzalez; Havana International Service, 20 Aug 86) 1

ARGENTINA

- Radical Youth Group Rejects U.S. Protectionism
(Javier Rodriguez; Havana International Service, 20 Aug 86) 2
- Army Chief Appears Before Defense Committee
(NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, 27 Aug 86) 3
- Military Helicopter Crashes in Andes Foothills
(Buenos Aires Domestic Service, 28 Aug 86) 4
- Briefs
- Wheat Sowing Figures 5
- Reca To Discuss Market Strategy 5

BOLIVIA

- Troops Prevent Bishops From Contacting Marchers
(AFP, 29 Aug 86) 6

BRAZIL

- Minister Protests U.S., EEC Protectionism
(Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network, 25 Aug 86) 7
- Bishops Ask Sarney To Protect Priests, Nuns
(EFE, 23 Aug 86) 8
- Police Submit Report on Mengele Case to Court
(EFE, 6 Aug 86) 9
- France To Manufacture Tucano Planes
(O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 22 Aug 86) 10

Foreign Debt Increasing 3 Percent Annually (EFE, 15 Aug 86)	11
Briefs	
Funaro on Debt, Frozen Prices	12
Cardiology Cooperation With Cuba	12
Tremors in Rio Grande do Norte	12
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	
Briefs	
New Attorney General	13
Police Act Provisions	13
CHILE	
Pinochet Said 'Desperate' To Remain in Power (Norberto Hernandez; Havana International Service, 21 Aug 86)	14
Bishop Contreras Discusses Coexistence With Marxists (EFE, 17 Aug 86)	16
Merino Says Constitutional Changes Under Study (Santiago Radio Chilena, 26 Aug 86)	17
Smuggled Arms Caches Reported to UN, OAS (EFE, 27 Aug 86)	19
Havana on FPMR's Captured Documents (Norberto Hernandez; Havana International Service, 26 Aug 86)	21
Business Leader Rejects U.S. Conditioning of Credits (Santiago Domestic Service, 21 Aug 86)	23
Briefs	
Police Arrest Protesters	25
Exiles Demand Right To Return	25
Wealthy Neighborhoods Searched	26
Archbishop Criticizes Trial Delay	26
Pinochet Scores Biased Sectors	26
Incident Witnesses Harassed	27
Repression Against Press	27
Police Arrest 37 Students	27
COLOMBIA	
Biographic Profile of President Virgilio Barco (Pedro Claver Tellez; CROMOS, 5 Aug 86)	28

COSTA RICA

Commentary Views East-West Conflict in Central America (Oscar Alvarez; RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO, 1-7 Aug 86)	33
Commentary Calls for Prompt Reply to Nicaragua's ICJ Suit (Carlos Jose Gutierrez; RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO, 8-14 Aug 86)	35
Guido Fernandez Discusses Present, Future Role in Government (Ana Lupita Mora; RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO, 25-31 Jul 86)	37
Oduber Criticizes Previous Government Administrations (Ana Lupita Mora; RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO, 1-7 Aug 86)	41
Arias Administration's First 100 Days Analyzed (RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO, 8-14 Aug 86)	46

CUBA

Increased Reporting of Theft, Fires (Havana Radio Periodico del Aire, 21 Aug 86; Havana Radio Progreso Network, 22 Aug 86)	60
Car Break-ins	60
Warehouse Thefts	60
Warehouse Fire	60

GUYANA

Briefs	
New Fuel Crisis	61

MONTSERRAT

Row Erupts Over Government Action Against Priest (Various sources, various dates)	62
Work Stoppages	62
Church, Government Talks	63
Government Compromise	63
Osborne on Elections	64
Opposition Coalition Moves	64

NICARAGUA

UNO Leader Cruz Comments on Sandinist Regime, Resistance (Arturo Cruz Interview; RUMBO, 8-14 Aug 86)	65
Protestant Temple in Managua Destroyed (BARRICADA, 27 Aug 86)	69

Briefs	
Conversion of Military Ranks	70
D'Escoto-'Arafat Meeting	70

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Parties in Pre-Election Jockeying: Date May Be Set Soon (Various sources, various dates)	71
Discussion of Race Issue	71
NAR on Code of Ethics	72
Attack on Robinson	73
Poll Date Speculations	74
Robinson Praise for Panday	74
Concerns in PNM	75
Call for Nominations, by John Babb	76
Prime Minister Resumes Tours of State Enterprises (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 15 Aug 86)	77
Tobago House of Assembly Again at Odds With Government (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, various dates)	78
Funding Irregularity Charges, by Gail Alexander	78
Government Response	79
Decision of Ministry Claims, by Gail Alexander	79
Trade With Caricom Reviewed, Regulations Eased (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 12, 14 Aug 86; DAILY EXPRESS, 15 Aug 86)	80
Central Bank Action	80
Acceptance of Commitments	81
Increase in Exports	82
New Laws on Territorial Limits Cited, Spark Objections (DAILY EXPRESS, various dates; TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 20 Aug 86)	84
Oil Spill Issue	84
'Coverup' Charge	85
Opposition Skepticism, by David Renwick	85
Fishing Regulations	86
Comment on Shortcomings	87
Details of Legislation	88
Hindu Community Leader Makes Appeal for Unity (DAILY EXPRESS, 18 Aug 86)	90
Businesses Fail To Respond To Moves by Central Bank (DAILY EXPRESS, 15 Aug 86)	91

Report on Public Debt Shows 1-Year \$538 Million Increase (DAILY EXPRESS, 1 Aug 86)	92
Government Sees Recovery in Agricultural Sector (DAILY EXPRESS, 13 Aug 86)	93
Future of Sugar Industry Lies in Cane Farming (DAILY EXPRESS, 26 Jul 86)	94
Briefs	
Union Action	95
Trintoc Production	95

URUGUAY

Havana Reports Amnesty Bill Goes to Congress (Nelson Santos; Havana International Service, 28 Aug 86)	96
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URUGUAY, BRAZIL SIGN NEW TRADE AGREEMENTS

PA220017 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Aug 86

[Report by Julian Gonzalez from Montevideo--live or recorded]

[Text] Extensive optimism is being felt in Uruguay following the signing of trade agreements by President Julio Maria Sanguinetti and his Brazilian colleague, Jose Sarney. According to what has been established in these agreements, a substantial increase in trade between the two countries becomes possible, and all this within a greater overall policy, which includes agreements between Brazil and Argentina and those already signed by the Uruguayan Government with [words indistinct], Mexico, and Argentina.

It seems that regional integration has been relaunched with a new spirit based on bilateral agreements. This is undoubtedly a less ambitious path, although it is more realistic than the one started with little success 20 years ago: the multilateral agreements, of which the most notorious and representative was the now defunct ALADI [Latin American Integration Association].

Now, after the agreement has been signed the question of the actual trade exchange remains, and here is where the internal reality of Uruguayan and Brazilian economies could put a damper on present enthusiasm. A year ago, President Sanguinetti signed a similar agreement with Alfonsin, and little gain has been achieved in that direction. The explanation seems simple: Both the Uruguayan and Argentine economies are in a deep recession and both are betting on private investment. Specialists point out that the slow response by businessmen faced with the possibility of expanding their business by way of the Argentine-Uruguayan agreement, is due to a very simple reason: On both shores of the Rio Plata, the best investment and earning opportunities are in financial speculation. No one who has capital is going to invest in production, because he could reap greater benefits, without any risk, by depositing his capital in a foreign bank.

In the case of the Uruguayan and Brazilian agreements, there is a difference, because the Brazilian economy is the only one growing in this region, and Brazilian industrialists have already demonstrated great aggressiveness in marketing. The risk is serious for Uruguay. In their present open to foreign capital economic policy and total trade freedom, the country could suffer a new surge towards the denationalization process that had already started showing during the military government years.

Certain analysts have said that before regionally integrating the Uruguayan economy, it is necessary to free it internally, and this seems to be the root of the problem.

RADICAL YOUTH GROUP REJECTS U.S. PROTECTIONISM

PA201939 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Aug 86

[Telephone report from Buenos Aires, Argentina by Javier Rodriguez--recorded]

[Text] The national dispute over payment of Argentina's foreign debt under the country's present conditions has reemerged among different political sectors in the country. A meeting held by the National Committee of Radical Youth [Comite Nacional de Juventud Radical], the youth organization of the governing party, harshly criticized the trade protectionism carried out by the United States and the EEC, and demanded a change in the official policy regarding the foreign debt.

The youths from the Radical Civic Union, UCR, headed by President Raul Alfonsin, decided to initiate the movement for popular awareness regarding the country's foreign debt, which is a factor of dependence, and demanded a unilateral measure regarding its payment. They requested a reduction in the percentage paid or the elimination of downpayments toward the interest, which would compensate--according to the radical youths--the damages suffered due to the injustice of international economic order.

A simultaneous statement was made by the National Junta of the Christian Democratic Party, which requested that Congress suspend, limit, or reduce payments on the foreign debt as a way of defending and protecting national jobs. The Christian Democrats warned that the United States may extend the (cereal dumping) [preceding word in English] to other products linked to Argentine trade, with which it would introduce uncertainty on the market and the resulting damage to the underdeveloped countries' economies.

The statements issued by the two organizations, which even disagree on national issues, are expressions of the growing protest over the U.S. economic aggression against Argentine cereal exports.

/9716

CSO: 3348/775

ARGENTINA

ARMY CHIEF APPEARS BEFORE DEFENSE COMMITTEE

PY272138 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1605 GMT 27 Aug 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Aug (NA)--Army Chief of Staff General Hector Rios Erenu today said that "Article 23 of the National Constitution establishes when to use the Armed Forces" and pointed out that "they can be used in a war or internal commotion."

Rios Erenu indicated that "the Army has no plans to become involved in internal conflicts." Its only plans involve dealing with "external threats."

General Rios Erenu made these comments at the conclusion of a meeting that lasted over 1 hour with members of the Senate Defense Committee, which invited Rios Erenu to give the Army position on the national defense bill which has already been approved by the Chamber of Deputies.

Gen Rios Erenu pointed out that "the coordination of the military intelligence organizations should be done at the Defense Ministry level." He said that this opinion coincides with the bill but the other two branches of the Armed Forces disagree with it.

Asked about comments by Juan Manuel Casella, the candidate for Buenos Aires Provincial governor who in a newspaper article criticized the invitation from Congress to the military chiefs, Rios Erenu said that "for me this is a moment of profound emotion as a citizen because I was able to see that the democratic system works."

Gen Rios Erenu gave a press conference in the office of Senator Antonio Berhongaray, president of the Senate Defense Committee. Justicialist Senator Julio Amoedo was also present. Rios Erenu gave the senators a 13-page document with a graph stating the Army position on the bill.

Rios Erenu was the last of the chiefs of staff who explained the military position to the Senate on the defense bill.

/9604

CSO: 3348/779

ARGENTINA

MILITARY HELICOPTER CRASHES IN ANDES FOOTHILLS

PY281958 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Aug 86

[Text] A helicopter crashed yesterday in the Andean area of Mendoza Province. The Lama helicopter with a crew of three on board which belongs to the 4th Air Brigade headquarters at El Plumerillo, was lost near the Cerro de Plata. Morane-Saulnier and Hercules C-130 airplanes, helicopters, and ground patrols are participating in the search. Reporter (Ibero Pongiovani) from Radio Nacional Mendoza reports:

[Begin recording] [(Pongiovani)] We are in direct contact with Vice-Commodore Alberto Catalan, head of operations of the 4th Air Brigade, regarding the helicopter lost in the Andean foothills. What news do you have, vice-commandore?

[Catalan] They spotted the helicopter a few moments ago on a slope near the top of Cerro de Plata. It is located at approximately 5,700 meters altitude, in an area that is rather inaccessible due to the weather conditions. The air rescue units cannot get close, so we cannot give, for the moment, information on the crew. We must wait for the land patrols to arrive in the area. At this moment [words indistinct].

[(Pongiovani)] Let us remember that the Zonda [a strong wind coming off the Andes] was blowing in the area. Thank you, Vice-Commodore Alberto Catalan, head of operations of the 4th Air Brigade, for the report to Radio Nacional, Buenos Aires. [end recording]

/9604

CSO: 3348/779

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

WHEAT SOWING FIGURES--(NA-DYN)--Wheat sowings for the 1986/87 campaign are estimated to be 14.4 percent below that of the previous cycle, according to a survey carried out by the Buenos Aires Grain Exchange. The area sown with this grain is estimated to cover 5 million hectares as against 5,840,000 hectares the previous year. Experts at first forecast that the acreage sown would be even less, but later farmers became more incentivated following a slight reduction in export taxes. Climatic conditions in the grain-growing areas have been favourable with the exception of Cordoba where droughts are reported. Sowing still continues in many parts of the country, but is expected to wind up in a couple weeks. Buenos Aires province heads the wheat-sowing provinces with an estimated 2,270,000 hectares of land under cultivation, followed by Santa Fe, La Pampa, Cordoba and Entre Rios. [Text] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Aug 86 p 3] /9604

RECA TO DISCUSS MARKET STRATEGY--Buenos Aires, 21 Aug (TELAM)--Agriculture, Livestock, and Fishing Secretary Lucio Reca left today for Australia, where he will participate in a meeting of agricultural products exporters. During this meeting, he will try to discuss a common strategy alleviate the dire consequences of the agricultural war between the United States and the European Economic Community. He made this announcement at the Minister Pistarini Airport at Ezeiza before boarding a plane at 1900 [2200 GMT] to fly to Sidney, where representatives of 13 commodities exporting countries will meet. Secretary Reca also said on this occasion that the importation of meat is not contemplated. Asked about the U.S. decision to subsidize its grain exports, Reca said that what can be done is to draw attention, with all the strength that can be mustered, to this decision that has such deplorable consequences for Argentina. Reca then added that it must not be forgotten that the countries that are our main creditors are implementing policies that hinder our effort to generate resources to pay our debts. This is a contradiction and to make the debtor countries see that this contradiction exists is a step in the right direction. [Excerpt] [Beunos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2243 GMT 21 Aug 86 PY]

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CSO: 3348/775

BOLIVIA

TROOPS PREVENT BISHOPS FROM CONTACTING MARCHERS

PY290216 Paris AFP in Spanish 0147 GMT 29 Aug 86

[Text] La Paz, 28 Aug (AFP)--La Paz Bishop Msgr Jorge Manrique today reported that the military forces which have surrounded about 6,000 miners, peasants, students, women, priests, and children, who are conducting the March for Life on the Oruro-La Paz highway, prevented six Catholic bishops from contacting the marchers.

Msgr Manrique indicated that the bishops went to the Altiplano area to deliver food, water, and medicine to the marchers who left 7 days ago from Oruro and were hoping to reach La Paz to request the suspension of the closure of the mining enterprises and the dismissal of 14,000 miners.

Msgr Manrique said: Our mission is pastoral, we must take care of the needs of our brothers and take care of our people materially and spiritually. He added that the bishops waited 2 and 1/2 hours at a military post.

Regarding the soldiers, Manrique said that their actions were inappropriate because human life is sacred.

Deputy Antonio Aranibar of the Free Bolivia Movement reported that three military regiments have been deployed against the miners march and that this is creating an obvious danger to the thousands of men, women, and children who are at Calamarca, 60 km south of La Paz. The regiments are the motorized Viacha, the armored Tarapaca, and the Calama artillery.

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CSO: 3348/778

BRAZIL

MINISTER PROTESTS U.S., EEC PROTECTIONISM

PY251742 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT
25 Aug 86

[Text] In Australia, Agriculture Minister Iris Rezende has stated that Brazil may oppose the U.S. and EEC protectionist policies of subsidizing foodstuff export. He emphasized that the opposition will only be political in nature, because it is difficult to compete with world powers whenever a type of procedure, which he described as risky and gigantic, is taking place. Rezende is in Australia where he is participating in a minister-level meeting of countries involved in the agricultural trade. Thirteen countries which are responsible for nearly 22 percent of world exports of agricultural products, are participating in the meeting.

During the past 5 years, world grain production increased 16 percent and grain stockpiles increased 64 percent, but exports fell 15.8 percent. According to Rezende, these data are linked to a policy of trade protectionism and export subsidies. The meeting in Australia is to discuss these problems.

In the Brazilian case, this protectionist policy will mainly affect soybeans.

The meeting will also discuss the inclusion of agriculture in the agenda of the GATT negotiations scheduled to be held in Uruguay 15-19 September.

/8309

CSO: 3342/177

BRAZIL

BISHOPS ASK SARNEY TO PROTECT PRIESTS, NUNS

PY231800 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1341 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] Brasilia, 23 Aug (EFE)--The National Conference of Brazilian Bishops (CNBB) today asked President Jose Sarney to provide protection for 11 clergy members who received death threats for supporting peasants in Ceara State, northeastern Brazil, where they are struggling to own land.

The petition is contained in a letter that Fortaleza archbishop Aloisio Lorscheider sent to the chief executive. The letter was released today by the CNBB.

According to Lorscheider, 8 priests, 3 nuns, and 10 laymen have received death threats from large land owners in Ceara State. The land owners oppose the land reform program ordered by the government.

The letter states that "several killings have already been perpetrated by gunmen hired by powerful land owners, thus opposing the desire and the resolutions of the federal government."

Cardinal Lorscheider adds that "violence has escalated in Ceara (State) and that killings are increasing as the workers are getting organized in the struggle for the right to own land."

Violence in Brazilian rural areas took more than 1,000 lives in 1985, especially those of agrarian leaders who, with the support of the Brazilian Catholic Church were placing claims for land to work.

The Brazilian bishop asked the president to adopt measures "capable of safely conducting the process of a just, necessary, and urgent land reform."

This is the first official statement by the Brazilian church on rural violence after President Sarney held a meeting with Pope John Paul II in Rome in July to review the support of a Catholic sector for the claims being made by the peasants.

The meeting held between the pope and President Sarney put an end to the accusations the government had made against the church for promoting violence in rural areas through the so-called laymen's base organizations.

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CSO: 3342/177

BRAZIL

POLICE SUBMIT REPORT ON MENGELE CASE TO COURT

PY060253 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0153 GMT 6 Aug 86

[Text] Sao Paulo, 5 Aug (EFE)--The Brazilian Federal Police today submitted to the courts a report on the stay and death in Brazil of Nazi Dr Joseph Mengele, and on the persons who hid him in the country for 18 years.

The police have accused the Hungarian couple Geza Janos and Guitta Stammer and the Austrian couple Wolfram and Licelotte Bosset of hiding a clandestine immigrant. These two couples helped Mengele from the time of his arrival in Brazil until he died on 7 February 1979 on the Sao Paulo beach of Bertioaga.

Licelotte Brosset [as printed] could also be tried for giving false testimony and for forgery because she prepared papers for the burial of the so-called Angel of Death under the name of Wolfgang Gerhand, the name of a corporal in the Nazi Army who gave his Brazilian documents to Mengele.

The police report is already in the hands of the federal prosecutor, who can formally charge the two couples, withdraw the charges, or ask for a more extensive investigation.

Moreover, Marco Antonio Veronezzi, chief of the Sao Paulo Federal Police, has asked the judge that the material used to identify the Nazi doctor be donated to the National Police Academy.

The judge also decides what is to be done with Mengele's body, which since 1985 has been kept in the Sao Paulo Legal Forensic Institute [IML], where scientific studies confirmed Mengele's death.

The research on the body, which was exhumed on 6 June at the EMBU Cemetery, was carried out at the IML by experts from the United States, the FRG, and Israel. These countries already have a copy of the report and its conclusions.

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CSO: 3342/178

BRAZIL

FRANCE TO MANUFACTURE TUCANO PLANES

PY261935 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Aug 86 p 2

[Excerpts] Sao Jose dos Campos--The Tucano plane, which is used for military training, and is the sales success of the Brazilian Aeronautics Company [Embraer], will be manufactured under license in France. It is currently manufactured in England and Egypt. The French Government has started negotiations with the Brazilian company to supply the French Air Force with 150 new training planes.

It was reported in Sao Jose dos Campos yesterday, that the initial conditions established by the French Government specify that the equipment for the training program must have a low operational cost, but that the quality of training must not be affected. It is also recommended that purchases be made from industries structured so that association with French partners will be possible. The French Tucano will probably have a Garret turbine engine, 45 percent more powerful, just like the one chosen by Great Britain, and some other modifications will also be made. The Tucano is the most modern plane of its kind, and it was designed so that several modifications can be made.

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CSO: 3342/177

BRAZIL

FOREIGN DEBT INCREASING 3 PERCENT ANNUALLY

PY161542 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1804 GMT 15 Aug 86

[Text] Brasilia, 15 Aug (EFE)--According to the official report that the Central Bank of Brazil issued today in Brasilia, the Brazilian foreign debt is increasing at a rate of 3 percent per year and in December 1985 totaled \$105.125 billion.

The long-term registered [registrada] foreign debt totals \$95.957 billion while the non-registered [no registrada] foreign debt totals \$9.268 billion.

The Central Bank's "monthly report" notes in its last issue that the foreign debt increased, despite the fact that last year Brazil paid over \$12,000 billion on interests and capital.

It adds that the devaluation that the dollar experienced on the international market is responsible for this increase in the debt.

The report adds that Brazil owes the IMF a total of \$4.608 billion, \$630 million more than in December 1984.

The Brazilian debt with nongovernmental agencies of the member countries of the so-called Paris Club decreased from \$300 million in 1984 to \$134 million in December 1985.

The report adds that Brazil's international reserves decreased by \$410 million from December 1985 to March 1986 and that at present these reserves total \$10 billion.

/8309

CSO: 3342/178

BRIEFS

FUNARO ON DEBT, FROZEN PRICES--Minister Dilson Funaro believes that, despite the resistance of Canadian and Japanese bankers, the renegotiation of the Brazilian debt for 1985 and 1986 will be finished before 5 September. The talks involve more than 700 banks, and the only difficulty lies in the differentiated rates of interest for the short, medium, and long-term loans. Minister Funaro asserted that the Brazilian Government can accept some of the creditors demands, although it cannot predict the good or bad results that accepting them might later have. Minister Funaro also said that prices will remain frozen beyond 15 November and 28 February, because it is not suitable to unfreeze prices in an economy which is improving. [Excerpts] [Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 Aug 86] /8309

CARDIOLOGY COOPERATION WITH CUBA--Cuba's Public Health Ministry and the Heart Institute of the Brazilian city of Sao Paulo, have begun a cooperation and exchange program on cardiovascular surgery. For that purpose, Cuban specialists Noel Gonzalez, Jimenez and Andres Sabio are already in Brazil. They will spend 2 weeks at Sao Paulo's Heart Institute and will later visit the University of Rio de Janeiro. [Text] [Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Aug 86] /8309

TREMORS IN RIO GRANDE DO NORTE--Three different tremors were recorded early this morning in the municipality of Joao Camara, Rio Grande do Norte State. While scientists are trying to find the cause and the epicenter of the quakes, approximately 150 families already left the area and 200 more are awaiting assistance from the government, which has already authorized the sending of food, tents, and medicines. In Porto Branco, some 50 families who live in the rural zone had to leave their homes because of seismic movements in the Mato Grande region. [Text] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 26 Aug 86] /8309

CSO: 3342/177

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

BRIEFS

NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL—His Excellency The Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr Karl Sinclair Atterbury of Jamaica to the post of Attorney General of the Virgin Islands, on contract for a period of two years with effect from 1st August, 1986. He will succeed Mr Jack Smith-Hughes who has been acting Attorney General since November, 1985. Mr Atterbury was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn, London in 1968 and was admitted to the Jamaica Bar in 1971. His wide experience in the legal and judicial fields ranges from Assistant Clerk of the Magistrate Court in 1959, to Crown Counsel in Department of Public Prosecutions for a period of 4 years from 1969 and Resident Magistrate from 1974 to 1981. Since 1981 he has been engaged in private practice in St Elizabeth, Jamaica. Mr Atterbury is 50 years of age and is married. His wife and their children will accompany him. [Text] [Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 16 Aug 86 pp 1, 2] /9274

POLICE ACT PROVISIONS—The Police Act 1986 has gone into operation. His Excellency the Governor Mr David Robert Barwick has assented to the Act which was passed at the last sitting of the legislative Council. A Gazetted Notice said the Act comes into operation on August 1st. With the coming into force of the Act are two immediate changes. The titles of Chief of Police and Deputy Chief of Police have been changed to Commissioner of Police and Deputy Commissioner of Police. Police Commissioner Mr Ronald Thompson said regulations have to be made under the law to bring effect to the other areas or reorganisation. These he said require a lot of work. [Text] [Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 16 Aug 86 p 4] /9274

CSO: 3298/542

PINOCHET SAID 'DESPERATE' TO REMAIN IN POWER

PA230451 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Aug 86

["Our America" commentary read by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] One of the most recent antigovernment actions carried out in Santiago, Chile took place on Monday when the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] kidnapped Colonel Mario Heaberle, Army chief of protocol who also carried out intelligence missions. Heaberle's kidnapping, carried out by the rebel organization in front of his home early Monday, was aimed at showing the capability of FPMR operations and warning the Chilean people about the threat of a new bloodbath planned by Pinochet's dictatorship in order to remain in power.

The FPMR said that Pinochet's desperate maneuvers have the goal of helping him remain leader of the regime for an indefinite period. Accordingly, it urged the Army to stop its support for the dictator.

The national and international public are attacking the Chilean regime so that it will return power to a democratic government elected through free elections.

In his ambition to become president for life, Pinochet has committed crimes that, instead of stabilizing his bloodthirsty regime, have encouraged the Chilean people in their decision to oust him.

The burning of youths alive, whom the police sprayed with gasoline and set on fire, has not been enough for Pinochet. On the contrary, he has been busily and artfully devising mock attacks--just like the one he came up with last week--that resulted in more government violence.

Pinochet's regime organized the farce of an alleged disembarkation of weapons carried out by a rebel group in northern Chile. The regime seized more than 1,500 U.S.-made rifles, rocket launchers, and explosives.

The dictatorship also claimed that after this discovery, the authorities detected three similar disembarkations. However, the FPMR and the Leftist Revolutionary Movement, MIR, denied this lie, stating that they had not participated in these disembarkations, and urging the national and international public to fight for the lives of the 21 people arrested by the regime in an effort to substantiate its claims. These 21 people are now being tortured.

The Chilean opposition, through the Civic Assembly, is also exerting pressure on the military regime in order to get the country to return to democracy.

The Civic Assembly just convoked a day of national protest for 4 September. To top it off, even fascism's best ally, the United States, has sent special delegates to meet with Pinochet to make the return to democracy feasible, in view of the concern that there will be an uncontrollable revolutionary explosion among the Chilean people.

Pinochet's regime has not finished with local repression. It also violated international law when it carried out espionage actions against embassies in Santiago, looking for alleged evidence that threatens the dictatorship. The Spanish Government has just demanded an explanation about the espionage actions carried out by the Chilean security service against its diplomatic mission in Santiago.

/8309

CSO: 3348/774

CHILE

BISHOP CONTRERAS DISCUSSES COEXISTENCE WITH MARXISTS

PY190356 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2035 GMT 17 Aug 86

[Text] Santiago, 17 Aug (EFE)--Bishop Sergio Contreras, the secretary general of the Chilean Episcopal Conference, has said "ways must be found to coexist" with Marxists. Msgr Contreras made this statement during an interview published in LA TERCERA today.

The bishop said that Christian and Marxists "live in the same country, districts, streets and even work together, which leads to the conclusion that ways must be found to coexist."

About the role of the Chilean church in its relations to the government of General Augusto Pinochet, during the last 13 years of military regime, the bishop explained anyone "committing himself by telling the truth and reporting wrong doings runs the risk of annoying some people. However, we cannot be accused of being imprudent for running that risk. This is what the Lord is asking us to do."

In relation to the accusations made by the government that the opposition is responsible for the violence and deaths during the 2 and 3 July protest and strike, Msgr Contreras said: "Too many events without justification are taking place and there is no logic to them." The bishop reiterated that the 13 leaders of the opposition Civic Assembly, who were arrested 1 month ago on charges of violating the State Security Law, "are peaceful men with the right to ask for what they have asked. They have used peaceful means." The regime has accused them of trying to destabilize and overthrow the government and they are being tried in accordance with articles of the State Security Law.

Regarding the consequences that the 13 years of dictatorship is having on Chileans, Msgr Contreras said: "The sufferings are breaking down the souls of Chileans."

/8309

CSO: 3348/774

CHILE

MERINO SAYS CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES UNDER STUDY

PY270253 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Text] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino Castro has stated that the changes which the legislative branch is going to propose in the 1980 Constitution are ready but cannot yet be made public.

Merino Castro was told that the National Accord proposed changing the Constitution in order to hold open elections in 1989.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Admiral could the Government Junta consider that possibility?

[Merino] I cannot say because I do not know what changes we are going to propose. I do not know that yet because [words indistinct] are ready but they are not publicly known.

[Reporter] When are those changes going to be proposed?

[Merino] When we reach an agreement to change the Constitution.

[Reporter] Will the changes be made soon or closer to 1989?

[Merino] I cannot say that yet because [words indistinct]

[Reporter] Why so much secrecy, Admiral?

[Merino] There is no secrecy. I cannot talk about something I do not know. How can you want me to talk about something I do not know. [end recording]

Admiral Merino then said: The Constitution must be changed in some aspects, and to do that it is necessary to hold a plebiscite, it is necessary that the electoral registry be ready and that Chileans be registered.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] The members of the National Accord indicated yesterday that they are going to work so that direct elections can be held in 1989 and the people can elect their leaders.

[Merino] I am not aware of [words indistinct]

[Reporter] But they are willing to reach an agreement with civilians and militarymen.

[Merino] Fine, if they can.

[Reporter] Would you be willing to meet with the members of the National Accord?

[Merino] I am willing to talk with anyone who can speak intelligently without hate and without thinking that we want violence. We can talk with the people who want to live in peace and tranquillity but not with the others. [end recording]

Admiral Merino was also asked about the new charges filed against CAUCE magazine. He said: I do not read that magazine and you know why.

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CSO: 3348/774

CHILE

SMUGGLED ARMS CACHES REPORTED TO UN, OAS

PY281859 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2153 GMT 27 Aug 86

[Text] United Nations, 27 Aug (EFE)--Chile today denounced before the OAS and the United Nations the discovery of the "subversive war arsenals" which had been smuggled into Chile, and requested international cooperation to investigate their origin.

The Chilean representative to the OAS, Javier Illanes, and the Chilean ambassador to the United Nations, Pedro Daza, presented full reports to both international organizations on the discovery of the arms. Official sources have said that the arms came from a foreign country and were intended for the guerrillas.

Javier Illanes' report to the OAS Permanent Council included photographs of the seized arms which he said were "intended for subversive operations and urban guerrillas whose final objective is the start of civil war."

Pedro Daza's report to the UN Security Council and the General Secretariat says that there are indications that the arms came from a foreign country and that this "affects national security" and is of interest to the international community.

Illanes' report says that the arms, valued at \$10 million and with a total weight of 50 tons, arrived on the Chilean coast aboard foreign fishing ships, and were later transferred to smaller ships during the night.

Illanes added that "they believe" that the vessels "were Soviet fishing ships," but they had not mentioned it in the report because of a "lack of evidence."

Pedro Daza, when asked about reports coming from Chile mentioning the transport of arms on a Cuban ship, said that the note delivered to the president of the UN Security Council, Ambassador D.H.N. Alleyne of Trinidad and Tobago, does not say anything about the origin of the arms or the ships on which they were transported.

Illanes said that the report presented to the OAS lists 3,115 U.S.-made M-16 automatic rifles, and 114 RPG-7 rocket launchers made in the Soviet Union, in addition to numerous other arms.

According to the document presented to the UN, the arsenal included 1,965 U.S. M-16 U.S. rifles, 1 million rounds of ammunition, 99 Soviet rocket launchers and 816 rockets, 1,979 Soviet hand grenades and other types of war materiel.

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CSO: 3448/777

CHILE

HAVANA ON FPMR'S CAPTURED DOCUMENTS

PA272357 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Aug 86

["Our America" commentary read by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] Only 15 days ago, a political scandal broke out in Chile which showed just how far the United States pulls the strings that control the fate of the Chilean regime. Once again there are new reports and revelations about the meddling that seeks, through accelerated plans, to change the worn-out military-men and to maintain U.S. domination in that South American country.

In the first days of August, the U.S. press reported to the international public the leak of secret Chilean Army documents that not by chance ended up in the hands of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. On that occasion, the scandal centered on ultrarightist Senator Jesse Helms who reportedly had told his good friend, General Augusto Pinochet, about the matter. Since the Chilean regime felt tied hand and foot, it remained silent and let Senator Helms defend himself as best he could, hypocritically proclaiming his innocence everywhere.

General John Galvin, chief of the U.S. Southern Command, visited Chile during those days. He arrived in Santiago not to calm down any aroused feelings but to proceed with the vast changeover plan. According to the documents found in the possession of Colonel Mario Haeberle who was kidnapped and a short while later released by members of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR], Gen Galvin stressed that the U.S. Army has an obligation of knowing in detail the behavior of its Chilean counterparts and that therefore, no one should be surprised about what he described as routine intelligence operations, common among any armed institution.

It is therefore very clear that in accordance with Galvins' statements, the CIA control over the Chilean Army is only a routine operation. However, the documents seized by the FPMR reveal something that goes beyond intelligence work. After criticizing the loss of efficiency and leadership which, according to Gen Galvin, the Chilean Armed Forces are experiencing, the documents stressed that the military men must clearly understand that the country's economic and political future is based on increasing foreign investment, especially from the United States, and that the basic task of the Armed

Forces is guaranteeing internal order and security. The documents added that the U.S. Government has carefully studied the Chilean situation and has reached the conclusion that Augusto Pinochet is finished from the strategic standpoint because after being in power for 13 years he has been unable to eradicate communism or to achieve national stability.

According to these documents, the level of repression unleashed by the Chilean Army is not enough. For the White House, the guaranteeing of internal order and security entails more than torching and brutally torturing opponents. What the U.S. Administration is really criticizing is not the Chilean military's lack of vigorous repression but its inability, despite everything, to stop the opposition which can lead to an unwanted and unfavorable change. That is why the maneuvers against Pinochet have recently increased in the search for a replacement who will maintain the current status quo.

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CSO: 3348/777

CHILE

BUSINESS LEADER REJECTS U.S. CONDITIONING OF CREDITS

PY211521 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] Manuel (Felliu), president of the Business and Production Confederation, has noted that the (?alleged) U.S. pressure [words indistinct] will not only affect the present government, it will affect future political system as well.

(Felliu) added that such pressure can also be described as an attack against all Chileans no matter what their political stand. He made this comment at the end of a meeting he held with Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle.

[Begin (Felliu) recording] I believe that it is very negative for this kind of aid, which is provided to all countries throughout the world, to be conditioned in our country on a problem of a political nature.

I believe that this may happen to any kind of government. Therefore, it not only affects the present government but it may affect future governments. Consequently, I believe this is an attack against all Chileans no matter what their political stand, or whether they are in favor of or against the dictatorship.

I believe this is an attack against our way of life; our possibilities for development and the eradication of poverty. I believe that this is a very serious problem that all Chileans must be aware of.

I believe that all this is very serious. I believe all this is dangerous because on the one hand, they want to intervene in Chilean domestic affairs, and on the other hand, to pressure the Chilean people through the granting of credits. [end recording]

Manuel (Felliu) noted that the business and production confederation has the duty to seek the path to national reconciliation because private enterprise develops and exists only in a peaceful society.

[Begin (Felliu) [as printed] noted that the business and production confederation has the duty to seek the path to national reconciliation because private enterprise develops and exists only in a peaceful society.

[Begin (Felliu) recording] The confederation has the duty to seek paths that will allow us to achieve a reconciliation because private enterprise only develops and exists in a peaceful society.

Therefore, we shall seek all necessary paths that will help us achieve social peace. [end recording]

Manuel (Felliu) added that Chile has a prosperous future but this demands the efforts of all Chileans.

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CSO: 3348/774

BRIEFS

POLICE ARREST PROTESTERS--It has been reported in Santiago that on Wednesday, military elements of the Chilean regime arrested more than 50 persons who were participating in protest activities in Santiago, which had been convoked by the opposition's Civic Assembly. The police used cars with cannons to disperse dozens of demonstrators who were in front of the Court of Justice. The demonstrators gave a letter to Supreme Court Chief Justice Rafael Retama criticizing the way justice is administered in that South American country. Meanwhile, other groups went to the Plaza de Armas in downtown Santiago, where they shouted slogans against the regime and demanded a prompt clearing-up of the most recent killings in Chile. In front of the Trabajador Hospital--where Carmen Quintana is dying--several persons were dispersed by the Carabineros. The young lady was set on fire by regime troops during the general strike of 2 and 3 July. [Text] [Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Aug 86] /8309

EXILES DEMAND RIGHT TO RETURN--We exiles reaffirm today the undeniable patriotic commitment and duty of resolutely struggling at this time to establish democracy in Chile and the right to live in the fatherland. Aware that this inalienable right, as well as all the rights violated and trampled by the dictatorship, must be achieved with the unceasing struggle of our people, the tireless struggle of the exiles, and the international solidarity, we issue a call to the organizations of the UN system, the human rights groups, governments, parliaments, and the international community to redouble their solidarity efforts for the recovery of democracy in Chile and an immediate end to exiles. Democracy in Chile cannot be fully self-determined as long as the tyrant remains in power, as long as the rights of citizens are violated, and as long as thousands of patriots live far from their homeland, scattered throughout more than 35 countries of the world, separated from their families, roots, and traditions. The Chilean exiles believe that it is urgent that they struggle for their return. They want to return to struggle for democracy now, to return to be alongside our struggling and heroic people to share the pain and suffering and the happiness of struggle and victory. [Communique issued by the Committee of Solidarity with the Chilean Antifascist Resistance in Havana on occasion of the Day of the Chilean Exile on 20 August; read by Committee President Mireya Baltra] [Text] [Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Aug 86] /8309

WEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS SEARCHED--Today Chilean policemen and military troops conducted random searches of houses in wealthy neighborhoods of Santiago looking for army Colonel Mario Haeberle, who was kidnapped by the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front on Monday. Parts of La Reina, Los Condes, and Providencia neighborhoods, as well as the parish building of the La Salle Catholic School were thoroughly searched by groups made up of Army, Carabinero, and the security services forces. In Santiago, military troops used cars with water cannons to disperse dozens of demonstrators, and arrested more than 50 people who were participating in the protest demonstration convoked by the Civic Assembly, the largest opposition force. The Chilean capital was virtually occupied early today and according to Defense Minister Patriotic Carvajal, the possibility that the government declare a state of siege has not been ruled out yet. [Text] [Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Aug 86] /8309

ARCHBISHOP CRITICIZES TRIAL DELAY--Santiago, 24 Aug (TELAM-EFE)--Concepcion Archbishop Msgr Jose Manuel Santos has criticized the delay of the trial in the case involving the death of three people in an alleged confrontation. He added that if a crime like this is not solved quickly, there can be no faith in Chilean justice. Msgr Jose Manuel Santos, the archbishop of Concepcion located 500 km south of Santiago, invited reporters to his office and expressed a public protest over the delay of the trial in the crime that occurred on 23 August 1984. Officials have indicated that the three victims were members of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), and that they were killed in a confrontation. Msgr Santos protested because the investigation was kept secret so that the lawyers are working blindfolded. He said that it is very serious when crimes are committed and no one is punished, and when the people who committed the crimes continue to work in security organizations. The archbishop indicated that the intelligence services are necessary for an investigation, we criticize the procedures they use, attacking, torturing, and illegally arresting people. [Text] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1426 GMT 24 Aug 86] /8309

PINOCHET SCORES BIASED SECTORS--President Augusto Pinochet today lashed out at the actions carried out by certain foreign sectors that view the Chilean status quo from a biased viewpoint. The president made this remark when he received the credentials from the new FRG Ambassador Horst Kullak-Ublick. During the ceremony the Chilean Chief Executive said that the Chilean Government appreciates the efforts made by the FRG to understand the extent of Chile's institutional development. Meanwhile, the German diplomat emphasized that Chile is facing a stage of pending decisions, and he reaffirmed that the FRG feels that the Chilean people have the necessary qualities to overcome their problems and work constructively to shape their future. Ambassador Kullak-Ublick also expressed his hope that prudence and tolerance will guide those who must make the decisions in Chile. The FRG ambassador followed the new Japanese Ambassador Shuichi Nomiyama who also presented his credentials to President Augusto Pinochet and emphasized the cooperation prevailing between Chile and Japan. [Text] [Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Aug 86] /8309

INCIDENT WITNESSES HARASSED--The UN expert who is studying the human rights situation in Chile has said in Geneva that his report to the General Assembly will include the testimony of those who saw how soldiers torched youths Rodrigo Rojas and Carmen Quintana on 2 July. Rojas' mother, who traveled to the Swiss city to meet with the UN expert, charged that the Pinochet regime has been manipulating the case, and pressuring and harassing all the witnesses. In Santiago, the regime released two of the witnesses to the burning of the youths. The sister and brother-in-law of Carmen Quintana, who was seriously injured in the incident in which Rojas died, had been arrested on 25 August to reply to charges that they allegedly had weapons. Another witness arrested on 23 August will remain in jail and will be tried. [Text] [Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Aug 86 PA] /6662

REPRESSION AGAINST PRESS--The Chilean military regime has ordered the imprisonment of five employees of CAUCE magazine, including Jorge Ovalle, president of the board of directors of the social-democratic publication. The military argues that CAUCE voiced doubts as to the alleged discovery of an arsenal, that--according to the Pinochet Army--was destined for Chilean guerrilla organizations. A PRENSA LATINA contributor in Santiago, Chile, (Claudia Lanzarouqui), had published reports in the magazine about Carabineros intelligence serve deserters who referred to serious human rights violations by that militarized police. Her arrest was also ordered, and the action led to increase repressive escalation by Pinochet against the Chilean press. Three radio stations have already been closed, while the director and several columnists of the magazine ANALISIS have been arrested. [Text] [Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Aug 86 PA] /6662

POLICE ARREST 37 STUDENTS--In Chile, 37 students were arrested yesterday when police cleared the Economy Department of the University of Chile, which had been occupied by hundreds of youths. The students were demanding an end to military intervention in the country's universities. Three other youths, members of the Socialist Party, were arrested by security agents of the National Intelligence Center, according to reports from Santiago. No other details were issued. [Text] [Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Aug 86 PA] /6662

CSO: 3348/777

BIOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PRESIDENT VIRGILIO BARCO

Bogota CROMOS in Spanish 5 Aug 86 pp 21-23

[Article by Pedro Claver Tellez]

[Text] Virgilio Barco, the new president of the Colombian people, is a technocrat and a politician, who formed his career dissociated from Manzanillism and demagoguery. Born in Cucuta 65 years ago, he has been a council member, senator, minister, and diplomat. He has a reputation of being unsociable, but he is a serious, disciplined, hard-working man who will operate "at an engineer's pace."

In 1928, when Virgilio Barco made his First Communion, Colombia was starting to undergo a major economic crisis and noteworthy events involving public order. The extended Conservative supremacy was about to end, and its last president, Miguel Abadia Mendez, a faint-hearted, orthodox individual, allowed and perhaps sponsored the harshest wave of repression ever known up until that time. Hundreds of workers were massacred on the coastal banana plantations and in the Barrancabermeja oilfields. The violence became widespread in rural areas.

The social upheaval at that time (a forerunner of the regaining of political power by the Liberal Party in 1930) was like that of today, when the country is struggling amid many conflicts involving public order, guerrillas, unemployment, injustice, and poverty. On 8 June 1928, a precedent for the accursed 9 April 1948, a student was killed and the government's discreditation became extensive, just as is happening at present, on the ashes of the Palace of Justice.

About 1931, after leaving the Christian Brothers' school, Virgilio Barco began his studies for a diploma at the Cucuta Provincial School. He is remembered as "a proper, dignified, serious, cultured, and studious boy." They say that, although he used to play with all the other students, basketball in particular, he was more inclined toward books.

Two years later, in 1933, Brother Pedro Betancur, one of his teachers, received the assignment of taking young Virgilio to Bogota. According to Brother Betancur, the trip lasted 5 days, 3 on horseback and 2 by car. They had to withstand difficult days of journeying which took them to Chitaga, over the barren

ridge of Paramo del Almorzadero, descending to Concepcion and Capitanejo. Later, they were to arrive at a city which was then gloomy, and completely dissociated from the Cucuta environment.

But those horseback rides along ancient horseshoe trails made a permanent impression on the 12-year old youth. They say that he felt like an explorer and an adventurer, and that, thanks to them, he had an even greater understanding of his grandfather, Gen Virgilio Barco, from Piedecuesta, for whom he had great admiration. He was, precisely, one of the settlers of Catatumbo, a man who enjoyed opening up fields and land to civilization.

Engineering, an Indomitable Passion

Thereafter, young Virgilio distinguished himself as an excellent horseman, and conceived the notion of becoming an engineer. These were the years of Enrique Olaya Herrera, the National Concentration president who, although he had been elected by the Liberals and some Conservatives, had to face a difficult crisis marked by Conservative violence.

Upon returning to his native region, he engaged zealously in his studies for a diploma which he completed 3 years later, at the Provincial School. He later entered the National University, where he began studying civil engineering. From the National University, he transferred to Massachusetts Institute of Technology which, at that time, was the top-ranking institution for university education, where he received his engineering degree in 1943, during the second administration of Lopez Pumarejo, a greatly disrupted period which was already auguring the Liberal crisis. He was 22 years old, and had an immense calling to service.

Between the Profession and Public Service

When he returned to the country, Virgilio Barco was elected a council member for Durania, Norte de Santander. He would later hold that position, consecutively, in Cucuta and Villa del Rosario, the native region of Gen Francisco de Paula Santander. They claim that his work as a council member in these towns was so effective that he attained the chairmanship of the town councils on several occasions.

He began his public service career as secretary of public works and finance for Norte de Santander; a position in which he engaged in great activity that merited him an appointment as secretary general of the Ministry of Communications and an assignment to occupy the ministry.

Like all Liberals, he experienced hard times during the governments of Laureano Gomez, Roberto Urdaneta Arbelaez, and Gustavo Rojas Pinilla; periods marked by a definite sectarian flavor, with persecution and exile. He was a close friend of Jorge Eliecer Gaitan, who named him head of the Liberal Party in Norte de Santander; a position in which he devoted himself to the defense of his fellow party members, victims of persecution and murder.

During those difficult times, Barco was nevertheless typified by poise and serenity, qualities which, with the passage of time, were to become a constant feature in his political life.

The Technocrat and the Executive

Between 1950 and 1954, when the country was caught up in serious social conflicts, Virgilio Barco traveled to the United States to study social and economic sciences at Boston University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he completed the academic requirements for a PhD.

Four years later, in 1958, when Alberto Lleras Camargo assumed the presidency as the first chief executive of the National Front, Virgilio Barco was named minister of public works. He thus began his career as a high-level executive when he was only 37 years old.

Some years previously, in 1950, he had married Carolina Isackson, an American who had resided in Cucuta since the age of 7, an amateur pianist, and a woman of great literary and artistic culture. Her thesis for a degree in philosophy and letters from Stanford University dealt with the Spanish author, Benito Perez Galdos, specifically, his work, "The National Episodes," a novel which describes the perfection of the Spanish and Latin political spirit.

Embassies Build Presidents

After his passage through the Ministry of Public Works, during the Lleras Camargo administration, Barco began his rise to the presidency of the republic; or, rather, he began taking the necessary course for attaining it. Between 1958 and 1965, his administrative career became consolidated. In addition to the positions that we have already mentioned, Barco has held the following:

President of the Eighth Pan-American Highway Congress; minister of agriculture; in charge of the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit; magistrate of Bogota; and executive director of the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development, representing Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador, the Philippines, and the Dominican Republic.

Member of the Foreign Relations Advisory Commission, and ambassador to the Community of the Bahamas, he has been sent on special missions to many countries and is a member of various professional and academic associations, both native and foreign. In the diplomatic realm, he has been ambassador to London and Washington, two embassies which build presidents.

The best school, the only school (because these things are not learned in the university), is public experience. Barco has also been a member of the Higher Council of the National University, representing the Supreme College of Academies. And if one of the national problems is agriculture, it should be recalled that he has not only been a minister for that area, but also a member of the Central International Council for the Improvement of Corn and Wheat, in Mexico.

One could fill many pages with his career; so, to conclude, we should add that Virgilio Barco's long public career has merited him not only the position of president, but also the confidence of all Colombians, who see in him the technocrat and the executive capable of extricating us from our predicament.

A Reliable Executive and an Honest Man

One of the new president's best credentials is his reliability. We Colombians are witnesses to the fact that, during his presidential campaign, he was never seen making futile promises nor with the signs of demagoguery and opportunism that have typified other candidates. On the contrary, he is a man alien to any type of promises, who detests populism.

He says: "A populist or a demagogue exploits the people's poverty, suffering, or inequalities to accrue political gains. He is, as his name indicates, concerned only with being popular or winning votes. To achieve this, he will make as many promises as necessary, without regard for studying which measures he must adopt to keep them. The Liberal position, on the other hand, is one of advancing as far and as fast as possible in the direction of the process. A Liberal will not promise more than he can accomplish, but he will not cease to advance in the search for means to see to it that the benefits of economic progress are shared by all the members of the society, particularly those who are unprotected."

It is a clearcut position. As his background attests, Barco is a builder, an executive. In 18 months, he built 300 kilometers of the Atlantico Railroad, finished the Bocas de Ceniza projects, and gave an impetus to the main highways plan. It would take too long to list his projects. But the combination of a team person and an individualist executor should be stressed in his personality; something that the country needs.

Another feature is his integrity. Among the many stories demonstrating this feature in him, there is one that is worthwhile recounting. A few years ago, while he was studying in the United States, he left an imperishable impression at the residence in which he was living. A Colombian student, whose name we are keeping confidential, arrived there requesting to rent a room.

The landlady, upon learning that this student was Colombian told the new tenant: "Welcome, sir, to my house. You will have no problems with me. I know many people from your country, especially a young man...." The student, amazed by the fact that, finally, someone should speak well of the country, and that he could boast of being Colombian, said, without concealing his emotion: "Very well, lady, I suppose that I must sign a contract or something of the sort, won't I?"

The lady replied: "Don't worry, there is no need for that. You Colombians are special people, and I know that you can even pay in advance."

What is the secret about this story? Simply that Virgilio Barco was the tenant who preceded that student. And the lady believed that all Colombians must be like him.

This is the image of the man who will be governing us. Starting this Thursday, with the cards on the table, the country will be in Barco's hands. And some claim that this is the last opportunity that the Liberal Party will have in this century to vindicate itself. Otherwise, they maintain, an ideological disaster will come, which will bury it with the century.

2909

CSO: 3348/764

COMMENTARY VIEWS EAST-WEST CONFLICT IN CENTRAL AMERICA

San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in Spanish 1-7 Aug 86 p 10

[Article by Oscar Alvarez]

[Text] Although it may seem obvious, it must be reiterated: The two superpowers are intervening in Central America. The United States' intervention is more than a century old. The Soviet intervention began to be systematic after the victory of the Cuban revolution, and has become heightened during the past 5 years. The United States enjoys the advantages and suffers from the disadvantages of being the traditional actor: its grandeur and its meanness are by now well known. The meanness of the Soviet intervention is better known in other scenarios. The United States' intervention is more public than the Soviet. The Soviets approach the prey through regional allies who operate secretly. Both superpowers are warring with troops of "third countries." The United States is fighting with Salvadoran troops and Nicaraguan commandos. The Soviets have advanced with Nicaraguan troops, Salvadoran guerrillas, and Cuban advisers. It is far more likely that the United States will end up using its own troops on Central American soil than that the Soviets would do the same. Nevertheless, in an escalation of the war, the Cubans could become involved on behalf of the USSR. The United States' allies are an insurgent force in Nicaragua, and a counterinsurgent force in El Salvador. The USSR's allies are an insurgent force in El Salvador, and a counterinsurgent force in Nicaragua. The two forces which are warring to achieve supremacy in Central America are being backed by the spy satellite systems of the two superpowers.

Who is winning the Central American conflict? If we compare the political geography of the region in 1978 with that of Central America in 1986, we could assert that the USSR and its allies have advanced substantially. But if we make a comparison between the state of war in 1985 and 1986, we would conclude that the Reagan administration and its allies in the region have reacted with some degree of success. In other words, when the conflict is viewed from a "macro" perspective of about 7 years, one would say that the Soviets and their allies are still the offensive force. But, when the same conflict is viewed from a "micro" perspective of last year, one can claim that Reagan and his allies have taken initiatives that are increasingly isolating their enemies. The Salvadoran guerrillas have yielded positions, and the Managua government is generating new antibodies in both the internal and external areas.

How long will the conflict last? There are at least three responses that would be useful to discuss in academic and political forums. There is the response of the "optimists of militarism," a group of analysts and politicians who expect that, one of these months, the "marines" will enter Nicaragua and, in a matter of a few days, will put an end to the Central American conflict. This group trusts in the "Dominicanization" of the area. The weakest aspect of this response consists of the failure to realize that the international and regional system of 1986 is quite different from that of 1965 (the year of the Dominican Republic's invasion).

There is also the response of the "optimists of international law." They, who are generally devotees of the Contadora Group, claim that, within a short time, the Contador Group's Peace Act will be signed and, after a few refinements and international controls, the Central American conflict will end. The main objection to this response would be to recall that the primary actors in this conflict are not exactly distinguished for a record of respect for international law. There is a third response: the one considered by analysts and politicians from the two warring factions. I have read it in the works of conservative authors, from "think tanks" in the United States, and I have heard it from the Nicaraguan ambassador to Costa Rica in a recent dissertation: The Central American conflict could spread in time, like the conflict in the Middle East. In other words, the actors should be prepared for a battle of at least about 40 years. Based on this hypothesis, the Central American conflict is just beginning. This response sounds fictional and like an Apocalypse, but it should not be precluded in a century wherein political history has often been confused with fiction and with the Apocalypse. In conclusion, two questions: For which of the three alternatives is the Sandinist People's Army preparing? For which of the alternatives are Costa Ricans preparing?

2909

CSO: 3248/602

COMMENTARY CALLS FOR PROMPT REPLY TO NICARAGUA'S ICJ SUIT

San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in Spanish 8-14 Aug 86 p 9

[Article by former Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez]

[Text] Costa Rica's position toward the International Court of Justice in The Hague has been the same as the one held regarding other world and regional agencies. Costa Rican governments have been willing to accept international obligations, and to acknowledge the importance of strengthening the organs attempting to see to their fulfillment, without any objection to their power to monitor, inspect, or control. We have observed in those entities the means of defense, and not an inconvenient policing. It is in accordance with those guidelines that we have accepted the Court's jurisdiction: first, by ratifying the Inter-American Treaty on Peaceful Solutions; later, through an express statement; and, finally, with a symbolic act executed by the then President Luis Alberto Monge, at the Court's headquarters during his visit to Europe in 1984.

This background has created an impossible solution in the case of the suit brought by the government of Nicaragua; that of rejecting the Court's authority. There have been so many clearcut, unequivocal ways in which the country has expressed its willingness to accept the Court's jurisdiction that, when the time has come that a suit has been filed against it, the Costa Rican Government must make good on its word that has been given. Today's action must be in keeping with the statements of yesterday, and the day before yesterday.

The possibility that the Nicaraguan Government hinted in the note in which it reported having filed the suit, namely, that we might resume bilateral negotiations to establish a border guard force between the two countries, may exist. Negotiation has been an accepted and practiced policy, and there might be nothing wrong with it except that, under the present circumstances, it would mean yielding to blackmail, giving in to coercion. In view of the terms of the suit and the manner in which it was initiated, without being announced, the nation's dignity precludes sitting down to discuss border problems with the Sandinist government. It has notified us that we must hasten to sit down at the negotiating table, or be confronted with a suit before an international court. That pressure cannot receive any response other than to answer the suit.

Hence, it must be accepted that we have been sued, and we must give a response; which poses no problem. The grounds for this action are that the Nicaraguan Government thinks that we have attacked it; something which, of course, is completely untrue. It is the Sandinist regime that has attacked Costa Rica. First, it attempted to deprive us of the right to free navigation on the San Juan River; then it carried out countless acts of aggression, concerning which there are documents and other evidence. The attacks had their climax when two civil guardsmen were murdered in Las Crucitas, during 1985. This latter incident was investigated by the Organization of American States (OAS), which confirmed how the attack had been carried out, and it was eventually admitted in a letter from the president of Nicaragua. There is at least one incident in which the main witness for the prosecution would be the commander and president, Daniel Ortega.

This being the case, there is no doubt that Costa Rica could defend itself before the Court in The Hague. Our adherence to law and our devotion to peace must be combined with a patriotic spirit. We must be willing to fight, to put into effect all the pleas and defenses, and to file a countersuit that will make it possible to air all of Nicaragua's attacks against Costa Rica.

There is a series of inevitable steps: to open an embassy in The Hague, and fill it with an expert in international law, who would perform the important task of being our permanent point of contact with the Court of International Justice. We must establish a team of national legal experts in which the majority parties willing to attest to their patriotic spirit and to take on the defense of national interests would be represented, with per diem and traveling expenses, but without fees, which are not fitting when one is serving the nation. Finally, it will be necessary to seek advice from foreign experts in litigation in the Court, to provide details of a purely technical nature. Measures of this kind will make it possible to keep the costs within the country's potential.

One must always be willing to fight for the national interest. In the present case, before a court of law, it is something that makes the task even easier. Hence, the government should prepare to carry out the task, and to have the support and solidarity of all citizens who trust that we are right, that we must know how to request and expect that it will be acknowledged for us!

(Note: With this article, Mr Gutierrez begins his contributions to RUMBO.)

2909

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GUIDO FERNANDEZ DISCUSSES PRESENT, FUTURE ROLE IN GOVERNMENT

San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in Spanish 25-31 Jul 86 pp 6-7

[Article by Ana Lupita Mora]

[Excerpts] From tramping about in the mud and struggling with communal problems, mainly in the rural zones, to serving as representative to the White House--this is the step Guido Fernandez will take in a few months, when he leaves for Washington. His basic assignment will be to reestablish the image of Costa Rica, which he believes has become somewhat tarnished, in U.S. political circles.

Aware of the implications for him personally of leaving a post of national importance to go abroad, Guido Fernandez will take up this "new challenge" regretfully, because he is not reticent about his satisfaction with the work he has been doing in the Ministry of Government and Police.

Don Guido, whom we accompanied on a tour of the Central Pacific districts--Quepos, Parrita and Garabito--on 18 July, says that he agreed to go to Washington because he is always open to "new things, enriching experiences, and because I want to be of help to the government of Oscar Arias and the country."

The influence this lawyer and journalist of 53 has achieved in the post he took up last 8 May is well known. He has visited about 30 districts in a little more than 2 months, for the purpose of gaining personal knowledge of the most pressing problems in the rural communities.

The lack of police protection, linked with the personnel shortage in the Rural Assistance Guard (GAR), drug consumption, smuggling and migratory problems, among other matters, have been the focus of his attention.

When he reached the port of Quepos, the district representative of the GAR was waiting for him with an undocumented alien, whether "Chinese or Korean" he did not know. Don Guido tried to talk with him, but could not, since the man did not speak Spanish.

This intellectual, known mainly for his writings and television commentaries, was greeted with military salutes by his subordinates. However, he did not know how to respond in military fashion, and merely offered them his hand.

Ambassador

He began to respond to the questions posed by RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO as we proceeded along a dusty road leading to Parrita. Fernandez gave an account of his professional career, which was dotted with periods of insecurity, because he believes he makes "whirlwind" decisions, a process which has its risks.

"I left LA NACION seeking a challenge. I went first to television and from there to politics, and then participated in the electoral campaign along with Oscar Arias. Then I became a minister and now I am going to Washington." Concerning this appointment, he said: "Oscar insisted, and told me that I was his candidate for this embassy even before my appointment to the Ministry of Government, and that he had only failed to offer it to me because he believed I would not be interested. After 4 months and a long search, he concluded that I was the man who best met all his requirements."

However, this appointment was not merely a matter of an offer and an acceptance. Fernandez made it clear to the president that he is not wealthy and that the embassy in Washington is a poor one, such that only someone with money could represent "the country on a respectable level." He pointed out the numerous difficulties encountered by the preceding representative, Federico Vargas, and the limitations to which he was subjected, and he also set forth a series of matters which the government will have to take into account in order to ensure its diplomatic representation on a suitable level.

He explained that the specific functions to be carried out at the White House and with the Organization of American States will be divided up. He believes that the representation of our nation will be more functional and efficient this way. The economist Silvia Saborio will be assigned as alternate ambassadress, and she will take charge of all matters pertaining to the sources of foreign financing which are administered from the United States, such as the International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank and the Agency for International Development.

He also stated that Minister of Foreign Relations Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto will propose the economic reorganization of the diplomatic headquarters to the legislative assembly within the next few days, with a view to providing it with the indispensable minimum of resources. This will include an allocation for equipping the residence once it is built (the former residence burned), and an allocation for foreign ministry expenditures and the leasing of offices, since the current premises are inadequate. In addition, an allocation for representation costs will be requested, since he says the sum presently available is "ridiculous," and is lumped together with the ambassador's salary.

On the subject of his diplomatic actions in this neighbor to the north, he assured us that since he identifies totally with the foreign policy being pursued by Arias, he clearly understands the role which our country should play as a friend and ally of the United States.

He argued that those in political circles in the United States must be made to understand what active neutrality is. "It means standing aside from the

conflicts in Central America, not merely as indifferent spectators, but as political activists. I do not know if any semantic difference exists, but in my view being neutral is not the same as being neuter."

When Fernandez called a press conference to discuss his appointment, he said that Costa Rica should be "an intelligent ally and not a dumb friend" of the United States. On being asked if he believed that it had been "a dumb friend" on any occasion, he said that it had not, but there is in this country a "mistaken perception of our role, particularly in progressive circles." He believes that there are those who believe that economic and financial pressures "have distorted our political will, and it is believed in conservative circles that such distortion is possible. It is not for me to say whether this perception is in any way true, but rather to carry out the instructions of the president and the foreign minister, so that we will never become 'dumb friends'."

He added that the image of Costa Rica must be improved, because in comparison with "what our enemies are doing to tarnish our name, what we are doing is very little. They receive political and material aid from the socialist countries. We have no one here to aid us, but we must counteract the efforts of these countries, using our own methods. At the time of the Sandinist revolution in 1979, complicity and direct participation on the part of our country and government existed, and later, we were also affected by the presence of the Contras, and all of this caused us to lose credibility.

"How do we show the world that we are truly neutral? By promptly seizing weapons and Contras, shutting down landing fields, preventing individuals such as Adolfo Calero from coming into the country, imposing limits on the activities of Eden Pastora and limiting the activities of the exiles to the use of political space, exclusively.

"If we pursue this policy, we will succeed in showing the international community that we are truly neutral, and thus we will acquire the moral authority needed to exert diplomatic pressure in an effort to ensure the democratization of Nicaragua."

Minister Fernandez

Our discussion with Fernandez was interrupted when we reached Parrita, where community leaders and a group of elderly people carrying placards urging the reinstatement of Hermogenes Cordero as the GAR representative awaited him.

Before he entered the municipal headquarters, Fernandez was presented with a case of nance fruit, which he immediately placed carefully in his automobile. In the municipal council headquarters, he listened to needs and requests, explained the current situation in his department, and, at the conclusion of his visit, promoted Laura Mora from the rank of private to corporal in the GAR, which only has two women in its ranks.

Our discussion resumed en route to Garabito. We asked Fernandez if after what we had seen during these visits, he did not believe that accepting an ambassadorial post would reduce his political influence.

"I am very aware of this. The Washington embassy post will take me out of the front line and will put me at a distance from the country, and thus reducing the possibility of being my accepted in the future as one of the members of National Liberation and having a further political career. Naturally, these 3 years in Washington will constitute an obstacle."

We asked if he felt then that he is not accepted in the PLN.

"I believe that the base levels have accepted me and I think that I have done useful work in the rural sector. I have won praise. But some members of the liberation political circles still regard me fearfully, as a newcomer or an opportunist. And the fact that one has worked for more than a year, written a book and served in the cabinet is not enough for them.

"But Oscar has pursued the process of democratizing the PLN. Luis Alberto Monge launched this process, but it has now been pushed so as to produce much broader consequences. The cabinet is being reviewed and an analysis is being made of how many professional politicians or experienced leaders there are.

"What I know how to do is to talk, to write and to persuade. I believe that I deal with people well, and that is why I am so happy in the Ministry of Government post, because of the contact with the people. I like to be close to the masses, to the problems, the names, the challenges, the countryside. This is experience, and that is also why I decided to go."

In commenting on his work as a minister, he explained that it had two dimensions. First there was the study of the ministry, "an attempt to understand it," since there are many departments which are "very heterogeneous." And secondly, there was the selection of suitable officials for the leadership posts.

He added a third aspect, involving travel about the country, which "I undertook in frenetic fashion, visiting Cartago, Limon, the northern zone, Puntarenas, Guanacaste, and leaving the districts in the Central Valley until the last."

He explained that he has now established the foundations for the development of a more deliberate policy on basic freedoms, individual guarantees, balanced with considerations of safety and order.

He has also begun, and leaves in progress, projects for modernizing the organization of the National Printing Enterprise, which will be able to put out the official daily publication, LA GACETA, in 4 hours instead of the 16 presently required; an efficient post and telegraph system; a proposal for another press, radio and television law; and also a new role for the provincial governments, and the task entrusted to him by the Government Council, the drafting of better migration policies.

5157

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ODUBER CRITICIZES PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIONS

San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in Spanish 1-7 Aug 86 pp 6-7

[Article by Ana Lupita Mora]

[Text] "I will hold Monge responsible and I hold Arias responsible for failing to direct the resources of the state toward the productive sector," Daniel Oduber said in an interview granted to RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO. The former president stated emphatically that there can be no stability without growth, for which reason, he insisted, the past government of Don Luis Alberto Monge "failed."

After warning that the present administration of Oscar Arias will be following the same path unless a change is seen in national priorities, he emphasized that "Costa Rica has become a country of moneylenders," and we have lived off "alms" from the United States, which he regards as "shameful." According to Oduber, the governments in recent years have made themselves laid themselves open to blame, for justifying the crisis, for not realizing that the most serious thing happening to the country is the failure to orient resources toward production.

He noted that the crop-raising, livestock, agroindustrial and forestry activities, which were always "the spoiled children of the governments," have fallen into total neglect, and he blamed this on the last three government leaders, for in his view, it is solely through these sectors that Costa Rica can achieve true development.

Although he admitted that in macroeconomic terms, the figures showed at the end of the Monge term that "we had climbed out of the hole in which we found ourselves in 1982," he added that from a country of producers, we have become a country of usurers who urge the public to surrender their money so that it will earn interest, only to turn it over, plus a few points, to those who can only speculate with it because they cannot work.

In the view of this former chief of state, the slum problem in the cities is the result of the lack of a policy of incentives for production. "On the day further encouragement is given to the rural sector, the people will stay there and work, rather than coming here and filling the cities with poverty."

"The way to combat slums is not to provide houses with televisions but to provide land and work, and this is what neither the Monge administration nor this one has seen clearly."

Oduber stressed that politicians often attribute these situations to the economic measures which the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank or the Agency for International Development requires them to carry out. However, "I believe that this is not true, that it is we who are to blame." And he added: "In the church, since the time of St Thomas, usury has been a sin, and it has been punishable since the 1950s under the Costa Rican Penal Code. But then the great modernists in this country came along to say that the money had to be given to a small group which would deal with finances, rather than to those who need it for production."

However, this liberationist leader expressed the view that the measure announced by the Central Bank, to the effect that the commercial banks will be responsible for establishing interest, will work toward making us a country of producers again.

If this does not come about, he said, Oscar Arias will not be able to fulfill his campaign promises. "Either there will be production in Costa Rica or we will continue living on alms, which gives me a sense of shame. The North Americans come here with their dollar checks telling us that if we behave properly, they will give them to us. Costa Rica has now become accustomed to accepting charity. This is shocking. It destroys our national dignity and works against any real possibility of organic and forceful growth in the production sector."

He said that a part of this whole situation is due to the fact that those who promoted the famous "let us return to the land" plan of the Monge administration did not realize what the Costa Rican reality was, and when they came to power they could not fulfill their promises, "but they should have done so."

Persecution

On another subject, the former chief of state discussed various aspects of the Arias government, mainly those pertaining to the internal administration of the executive branch.

Recently he publicly denounced certain abuses by the new officials in various government sectors, which have done harm to the workers in the middle- and lower-level posts in the various departments.

According to Oduber, there is a whole range of lesser employees who, on taking up their posts, "replaced valuable individuals in the middle and lower cadres, to an exaggerated extent."

He admitted that on the higher levels of the ministries and the autonomous bodies, there needed to be changes, since the president of the republic must put his own people and his own policy in service.

However, he reiterated that it seems to him wrong to remove employees on the lower levels. "To dismiss liberation supporters and put in people who are not better, but are closer friends of certain officials, is wrong. I have not seen any ministers or executive presidents dismissing people, but rather their assistants and advisors doing this kind of thing. I have spoken with government leaders and asked them to be very careful in replacing their employees, because it takes many years to train an efficient worker, and it is not worthwhile to make drastic changes to do some friend a 'favor.' Thus many of the complaints are just, and I support those who feel persecuted."

On being asked if to some extent this is a response to the so-called "meritocracy" which Arias said during his campaign that he would implement, he answered: "I believe that 'meritocracy' is a very nice term but that it is not being implemented. There are political promises and appointments having nothing to do with who shows greatest merit, involving instead those who have the best access to the president, or the right ideas, in his opinion."

"When Oscar talked a great deal about the meritocracy in the preelection period, I joked with him, because I know from the experience of many governments that, first of all, very rarely do the best people want public office, and secondly, party commitments often make it necessary to appoint not those who are the best but those who have worked most closely with the candidate."

The Opposition

Commenting on the path the present administration has followed, particularly in the legislative assembly, where a harsh crisis recently developed between the two majority parties concerning the approval of the tuna-fishing agreement, Oduber said: "The electoral campaign which ended a short time ago was one of the most virulent I have ever seen, in terms of personal attacks. I was accused of trafficking in drugs, Rafael Angel Calderon was accused of concealing his father-in-law, and Oscar was accused of everything. "Shameful low blows were dealt, and I believe that this campaign was not on the high level Costa Rica now deserves."

"This did harm to many people, and unfortunately, I have the impression that there never was proper communication between the two strongest candidates, Arias and Calderon, which makes the establishment of such communication now difficult."

Another argument which Oduber mentioned, one of which he said he is certain, is that there were many people in the Social Christian Unity sector who regarded Calderon as a poor candidate because of the name he bore and a whole series of shortcomings they attributed to him. "I personally believe that he was the best they had, but once the election was over, as happens when one loses, they turned against him. A number of internal Unity groups are persecuting him consistently, throwing the blame for the defeat on him because he was very weak in his relations with Monge."

According to Oduber, the Social Christians are blaming Calderon for "turning over a congress which was docile" in the earlier period "so that Monge would

be the one to profit. This is not true, because Unity opposed and delayed the urgent legislation on loans, the Central Bank and other laws. Therefore this charge is unfair."

He commented that he experienced this in 1966, when he lost the election. "The fleas always cling to the weakest dog, and the defeated candidate must be killed. The La Nacion group, formerly known as the 'capital,' the group of Rodrigo Carazo, the group of Jose Joaquin Trejos, the Christian Democrats and some of those who sought precandidate status attacked Calderon violently, so that he had to become tough, and he has. In no way can he implement his patriotic thesis, which is correct, calling for the negotiation of everything submitted to the legislative assembly in the way this should be done in any parliament.

"When one becomes hardened, and added to this the number of those who aspire to the presidency of this faction of the party, the situation is not easy. It is my impression that Calderon controls a strong bloc of deputies, but not all of them, and this is hindering the legislative work."

Concerning the developments which have come about within the liberation faction, such as the resignation and withdrawal of the deputy and leader Jose Miguel Corrales because of the tuna crisis, he said that the conflict was not handled well. "Greater care should have been used in dealing with it." Although he gave assurance that he does not know the details of the internal problem, he expressed the view that a difficult emotional situation must have developed, to force Corrales to go to that extreme.

He recalled that on many occasions, liberation deputies have differed with a majority decision, after consulting their comrades for permission and a consensus, but he said that in the case of Corrales he does not know if permission to differ was requested.

On the other hand, according to this former government leader, to this was added the general crisis in the assembly, because Unity is in a position which in his view it is hard to understand. "My only remaining concern is the lack of absolute agreement among the 29 liberation deputies. There must be agreement, and matters must be discussed fully and promptly, not in the newspapers but within the faction."

The Precandidates

Turning to more domestic National Liberation matters, specifically the presidential aspirations of some its leaders, Oduber said: "Costa Rica is interested in petty politics, soccer and parties. These are the three main lines of Costa Rican development. One president is no sooner elected than the candidates for the next election appear. This has always happened, and I cannot regard it as bad."

He said that the constant meetings being held by Carlos Manuel Castillo, Alberto Fait, Mario Carvajal and Rolando Araya are normal. He explained that "Not everyone is there yet and not all those who are will remain, but there is still a great deal of time.

"What is absolutely unacceptable is the formation of factions. Between these meetings, this flirtation and these affectionate gestures and the creation of a faction, there is considerable difference. The party has stated categorically that it will not accept factions until the convention is held, much less contributions of money."

He said that since this is the case, when the time comes to wage the 1989 electoral campaign, there will not be a cent available for the party fight, as often happens.

In conclusion, he emphasized that the immediate tasks, for at least 2 years, are the reorganization of the party, revision of its bylaws and support of certain programs in which National Liberation is interested and which the Arias government must carry forward.

5157

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ARIAS ADMINISTRATION'S FIRST 100 DAYS ANALYZED

San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in Spanish 8-14 Aug 86 pp 11-15

[Text] This week the Arias Sanchez administration completes its first 100 days of government. "Critical Review" wanted to serve as a forum enabling the regime's politicians and those of the opposition to make an examination of its successes and failures. Armando Vargas, the National Liberation Party's [PLN] political communications secretary, investigates the problems of the Costa Rican president in achieving a consensus among his voters that will enable him to propose a consistent government program. Although Vargas thinks that the obstacles to achieving this include the opposition's "stubbornness," the "belligerence" of the newspaper LA NACION, and the young ministers' lack of experience, one of the most serious is Arias' unwillingness to incorporate the National Liberation Party's great leaders.

Miguel Angel Rodriguez, one of the leaders of the Social Christian Unity Party [PUSC], criticizes the government for lacking guidelines to solve the nation's critical problems. Rodriguez claims that this is due to the fact that the party in power has not prepared a government program.

Fernando Volio, a Liberation Party deputy, believes that Arias' serious problem is the opposition's congressional radicalism. He considers this the real obstacle to the development of major plans for the country.

Finally, Luis Manuel Chacon, chief of the largest opposition faction in the Legislative Assembly, analyzes how the president has failed to keep many of his campaign promises, especially those made to the middle-level and low-income sectors. According to Chacon, the only success of the Arias administration is the housing program, which is an imitation of the one proposed by Unity during the campaign recently ended.

Armando Vargas Araya

President Oscar Arias Sanchez won in the elections of 2 February 1986, and gained the right to command. With 100 days of the constitutional term elapsed, he has begun the process of convincing, to raise himself from legality to legitimacy. Nevertheless, the creation of a national consensus, essential for the democratic government's operation, is still perceived as an elusive goal. In

our political system, with its long-standing, powerful system of public opinion and the nascent reality of a modern two-party system, it is imperative to convert obedience into support.

The civil society's fidelity to the state is beyond question, just as is the loyalty of the political parties and pressure groups to the institutions that govern the struggle for power. The dilemma lies, rather, in the political personality of the head of the government, who still appears to be in transition from formal power to charismatic power. A French proverb says: "The nature of democracy is to become personified in a man." It so happens in the contemporary state that, when it is undergoing a crisis, the rising status and the prestige of the man placed at the top of the state echelons acquire major significance for legitimizing power. And in our individualist culture, the citizens always have in mind the ruler's personal qualities and political features.

There are no miracles in politics. The consensus to back legitimacy is a result of an intellectual effort made with shrewdness, perseverance, and courage. Most of all, in politics one must add, add, and add; never subtract; and very seldom divide. Such a task demands more wisdom than knowledge. The president of the republic has within his reach sufficient political resources to assemble the puzzle that might originally have been a cause of irritation and headaches.

The path toward consensus and legitimacy is paved with obstacles of diverse appearance and a similar nature. By way of indicators we might mention three: an opposition that has not yet found its political guiding principle; an ultra-conservative press faction bent on imposing its narrow concept of the national interest; and a group of young ministers with little party experience. To be sure, in an exhaustive analysis, one would have to add to this brief sketch other significant aspects and nuances.

The National Liberation Party, founded 35 years ago, is the hegemonic force of Costa Rican democracy. Until the previous 4-year period, PLN was not faced with a real opposition party. Now, the Social Christian Unity Party has received credentials of legality to develop and become the second factor in the bipartisan equation. But, in fact, PUSC is still an archipelago of opposing ideologies, political legacies, dissimilar personalities, discordant forces, and inharmonious designs. Defeated on two consecutive occasions (once as a coalition and another time as a party), PUSC is suffering from an acute identity crisis (see the political feature article in the magazine GENTE, No 2, 15 Jun 86, pp 8-11). And for the sake of justifying its existence, PUSC has engaged in a stiff opposition to the government as an at least temporary expedient for self-affirmation. We know that inflexibility and intolerance, marks of immaturity, can end up jeopardizing the fundamental rules for the system's operation and convert a political conflict into a crisis in the system. If this immoderate stubbornness persists, some might perhaps think that this could endanger the two-party system so much desired by PUSC, which came into being in the heat of a juridical context possibly too advanced for our present political development.

Under these conditions, dialogue with the opposition and democratic arrival at agreement become uncomfortable and even hard; and therefore what is needed is a thorough understanding of the nature of the individuals with whom one must deal and an immense political skill honed during many years of negotiation.

Another sign of the times that are afoot is LA NACION's belligerence against the Arias Sanchez administration. When the votes had not yet been counted, the newspaper directed a series of editorials at it, under the general title "The New Government's Agenda." The president-elect's statements on economic and military aid from the Reagan administration to the Nicaraguan rebels and the British-American air bombing of Libya (consistent with Costa Rican tradition and the Liberation policy of unlimited adherence to international law, as befits a demilitarized, neutral country) were grossly manipulated and maliciously used to fan the coals of dissatisfaction that have arisen in certain Washington circles with the new president's dignity and independence. The supreme courage of the moderation and the rejection of all dependence, accepting no advice other than that based on good sense, were distorted for unexplained purposes; when the fact is that the cause of Costa Rica is not separate from the cause of the United States, although it is not confused with the latter. It must be stressed that Costa Rica has no military allies because, based on constitutional ruling, we are a nation without armed forces. As the Foreign Ministry has just repeated, "Our people's reiterated commitment to peace denotes the positive element of not interfering in matters dissociated from their existence, and constitutes the essential meaning of the formula for perpetual neutrality proclaimed in 1983 by the government of the republic, which retains complete force." The president certainly cannot defend interests other than those of the republic, and has done well by affirming the national sovereignty on all sides. This prompts one to recall the Latin American experience that, when a Social Democratic government wins the government, the defeated involutionist movements continue to lead, every day, the phenomenon of manipulating the consensus in certain commercial communications enterprises, while the democratic government remains unprotected.

It is likely that, outside of the government, even in the political parties and the communications companies, the construction of the national consensus appears to be a relatively important matter. But when one is running the government, the control of power and political leadership constitute a complex, serious task. In our state, there persists a dreadful weakness for scientific and technical management of principles, values, and symbols, lacking any type of resources not only for confronting the adversary, which would be suicidal, but even for seeking the alternative route that would make it possible to channel public opinion toward the major goals democratically discussed in the elections. The government's extreme need in this real, vital area, although it cannot be touched with hands, should be made up with talent, imagination and daring. Nevertheless, the government would appear to be lacking in a policy, a strategy, and a mechanism for forming the social consciousness, and constantly guiding it, with a view toward the attainment of loftier forms of political coexistence. In the particularly sensitive areas of government action (dealing with the economic crisis without destroying social peace, isolating

our territory from the Central American war, and maintaining fraternal relations based on mutual respect with Washington, as well as proper, peaceful ones with Managua), it is essential to ensure a suitable degree of consensus.

In other 4-year periods, this insufficiency of the state has been compensated, although inadequately, by the presence of great political figures in the government team. But since, this time, one can scarcely find anyone whose own political representative status can be added to that of the president, the latter is left exposed directly to the blows from the opposition and the criticism and censure of the press. It should be added that the peculiar composition of the government's higher commands with real independents or individuals recently arrived from other partisan camps, has disoriented the Liberation Party, without obtaining the sympathy or backing of PUSC. This phenomenon, atypical of governments emerging from permanent, ideological parties, is shown in the absence of influential figures who would support the head of the group in the political area and on the slippery terrain of audiovisual journalism.

And where are the political expedients at the president's disposal? Well, in the democratic movement which gave an impetus to the government. During the patriarchal era of exacerbated personalism, to use a phrase from that time, "the scaffolding was thrown away once the building was constructed." Whereas, previously, the leaders produced their party, now it is the party which produces its leaders. There is in the National Liberation Party, accumulated praise-worthily by several generations, a political treasure of experience, talent, imagination, and courage. Understandably, it suits PLN for the government to carry out its task in a wonderful manner. Of course, the consensus must begin from the inside out.

The creation of national consensus is unavoidable for basing the right to command on political legitimacy. In all countries which have reached a moderate level of culture, the ruler justifies his power by basing it on a belief or a sentiment generally accepted at that time and among those people. Without this unfailing consensus, the workers might more readily go on strike, the opposition could become more bound to its inflexibility, and the ultraconservative groups that have taken refuge in a certain press might be allured by their intolerance. And so, the art of governing would become a bitter, unpleasant experience.

At the age of 82, having held the presidency of the republic three times, Don Ricardo Jimenez said: "The difficult thing for the ruler is to know how to select the course of action at a time for decision; it is natural to be mistaken, and not to succeed on all occasions. Therefore, while rulers must have a large amount of humility and patience for carrying out their tasks and serving their people, the people must also judge the ruler with a certain amount of magnanimous spirit."

Miguel Angel Rodriguez

Every beginning is difficult, and it is perhaps imprudent to judge the first 90 days of an administration. But it is usually at its beginnings that one

can more easily assess the style of a government. It is at their beginnings that the president and his team can clearly show the qualities which distinguish and typify them; and it is during the first months that an administration has the most strength for acting and the greatest opportunities for making changes and initiating transformations. Later, the self-interested groups can more easily organize and reach agreement to defend their positions, and the measures that might affect them are more difficult to adopt.

During its first 90 days, President Arias' government has become bogged down. In the third month of government, Drs Lizano and Naranjo, executive president of the Central Bank and finance minister, respectively, have offered individual diagnoses of the serious problems facing the country in the economic area; but they only contain general guidelines for action in that area; they have not yet formed a program, much less submitting proposals for concrete measures.

Highway construction has been stopped (even in the case of a project already "inaugurated," namely, the San Jose-Guapiles route); there are no funds for finishing the roads planned to Cartago, Guapiles, and Los Chiles, nor the Southern Coastal Highway; and during the past 5 years the financial agencies have not had road programs submitted and approved that would lend continuity to highway construction.

The minister of education is opposed to the general education bill under negotiation, but he has not said why, nor has he submitted an alternative.

Crime, in its most alarming dimensions, is still rampant, and insecurity permeates lives and property in the northern section of the country, even though the number of public force personnel has been increased by over 15 percent during the past 4 years.

The minister of agriculture and livestock has stated that there is no policy for those sectors.

The housing plan does not consist, specifically, of anything more than the establishment of a ministry (form a ministry, and the houses will be built!); and the bill for the housing financing system, which the Assembly is dealing with, has originated in studies of the Social Christian Unity Party, and comes from a bipartisan commission of the previous Congress.

After 90 days of government, the Costa Rican ambassadors abroad have not been appointed, nor has a clearcut policy on the Central American problem been determined. President Arias and his foreign relations minister have met with their colleagues from the Isthmus and, on this special occasion, no mechanism was proposed to reactivate and normalize trade and payments among the Central American countries. There was a discussion about a parliament without authority, but no Court of Justice was proposed for the Central American Common Market that would protect individuals, business firms, and governments from arbitrary acts by other governments which would restrict trade or payments within the region.

In all areas, the initial 90 days demonstrate the bogging down of the Arias administration; a bogging down caused because the necessary preliminary work to prepare for governing was not done. During the campaign, the National Liberation Party did not prepare a government program that would stipulate goals, select measures, and serve as a coordinator of efforts. During the period between February and May, Don Oscar Arias chose his collaborators, but did not form a team nor was the program, the lack of which has impeded integration, prepared.

With capable figures, but without a program nor a team formed, the government's work depends exclusively on the group's political plan and the leadership style of its head. But, after the crisis that has originated in its own proposals, the National Liberation Party appears to be an electoral machine in search of a political plan: So, will it return to the catacombs of the 19th socialist dogma adopted during the 1950's and 1960's?

Dr Arias Sanchez, for his part, has been unable to establish a system of political coordination that would enable him to arrange for action with different groups. His political relations with the opposition, with the head of the National Liberation congressional faction, with the Castellists, with the various pressure centers, and with international agencies, have not yet shown his ability to make bridges and convince, instead of trying to conquer.

The lack of a program, of a formed team, of a defined political plan, and of a suitable leadership, wherein the leadership could conquer these obstacles, has shown us an administration that is stagnant, and lacking in the practical spirit required for a government's good beginning.

While this is happening, the poorer fellow countrymen and the middle class continue paying the price. It is the poorest Costa Ricans who are suffering to the greatest extent from the increases of prices of staple goods; because those goods represent a very large share of their income. Those increases originated from the growing public spending and the accelerated creation of money used primarily to finance the public sector. It is the poorest Costa Ricans who are suffering to the greatest extent from the concealed taxes in the cost of the social expenses; taxes which have generated the surplus in the Costa Rican Social Security Fund, which have not been translated into better health services for their families nor into a reduction in their contributions, but which, rather, are used to cover the deficits of other decentralized entities. It is the middle class Costa Ricans who find it impossible to replace their cars or to purchase them for the first time, because of the exorbitant tax charge and surtaxes associated with them. It is the middle classes that are paying the taxes concealed in the prices of fuel, which have not declined here, while its cost in the rest of the world has been cut by over a half.

Faced with all these problems, Dr Arias' administration has been unable to decide whether to cite the government of Don Luis Alberto Monge and the Arias electoral campaign itself as false, and agree that the crisis has not been

surmounted, that there is no stability nor growth, and that the future awaiting us Costa Ricans is still very distressing; because all the nice things: donations from the United States, foreign loans, high coffee prices, low fuel prices and low international interest rates were taken by the Liberation Party administrations for themselves, and allowed to vanish. To accept this means to retract their statements of the past and to condemn Mr Monge's government. Not to accept it means holding them responsible for the mistakes of the previous government and giving an image of unfitness to govern. The government, incapable of choosing between these alternatives, because of the high political price of either of the two decisions, is sunk in its stagnation.

With a phrase made fashionable by Don Eduardo Lizano, we might say that the trick has turned back on Don Oscar. The large public spending, bags of cement, zinc plates, trucks with gravel, specific funds, etc., with which the last electoral process was influenced, have become price increases for which the government is now being criticized. The lack of programs and the failure to spend time during the campaign to plan the government have caused the present difficulty in taking action. The false assertion that the crisis was surmounted and the glorification of Mr Monge's administration have resulted in giving Dr Arias' government its present problems. The trick has turned back on Dr Arias, and the current administration is bogged down.

Fernando Volio

The illustrious Archbishop Rodriguez once exclaimed at the beginning of his administration as bishop: "The Church is not a democracy!" After John 23rd's strong wind, I don't know whether that dictum would be retained today. What matters to me is to point out that, in the Legislative Assembly, the political party called (with disrespect for the Political Constitution) Social Christian believes steadfastly and dogmatically in a new commandment: the Legislative Assembly is not a democracy either. With sectarian, fundamentalist, saving zeal, they have taken on the purifying task of reversing the cardinal rule of republican procedure: the decision of the majority; replacing this ancient, decadent rule with another which they, enlightened by the new indisputable truth, the retriever of congressional prestige, preach untiringly: the rule of the minority to which we heretics and Social Democrats have obstinately not adhered. Deputy Villalobos Villalobos, deputy chief of the Social Christian Unity Party, has taken it upon himself to preach this peculiar and, of course, opportunistic theory since the beginning of the Assembly's regular sessions. For example, on 5 June he declared: "It has often been said here, and I have done so primarily, that the numbers game between those who are 29 and those of us who are 25, in this plenary of the Legislative Assembly, owing to our democratic system, does not have the significance that some would like to give it" (Minutes No 21). He reiterated this when he warned the Liberationists to stop thinking "that, based on the decision of 29, you can make the plenary of this Legislative Assembly act" (24 June, Minutes No 30). And if the foregoing were not convincing, the same PUSC representative remarked: "I believe that it is now time for the National Liberation Party faction to realize that, in this Legislative Assembly, the 29 that there are now, that the National Liberation Party has now, are not sufficient to govern" (8 July, Minutes No 38).

Of course, the purification of the democratic system by way of overvaluing the minority (as Hitler, Mussolini, Lenin, and Daniel Ortega would like), at the expense of the power of the majority (advocated by Locke, Paine, Jefferson, and Juan Mora Fernandez), minimizing it, discrediting it, and even silencing it, had already been done by Deputy Villalobos Villalobos, as an irrefutable, irresistible innovation (he claimed!) of the "brand new" constitutional law, when he proclaimed the following with absolutist self-assurance: "I once dared to say, and I do daresay that, at this plenary of the Legislative Assembly, the most important bills, and even those of less importance, will be voted only when Social Christian Unity wants them to be voted on; and that is a reality, it is true" (27 May, Minutes No 16).

It should be added to this description of the political evangelical renewer that he has intended to alter the parliamentary rules, with another commandment to purge the traditional, decadent procedures: the one repudiating any negotiations with the Social Democrats. "Dialogue, yes; negotiations, no!," declare the conceited Calderonists. "We stated here and it is recorded in the minutes, that our position would always be one of conversation, and would always be one of dialogue; but we would never use dialogue or conversation to negotiate an issue with the National Liberation Party faction. We are not, nor shall we ever be engaged in negotiations of any type" (13 May, Minutes No 18), remarked Deputy Villalobos Villalobos. He added that the Calderonists' position (with cross held high, acolytes, and incense) is one of renouncing now the abominable democratic ceremony which, up until the present, had appeared reasonable and civilized, and which consists of attempting to reconcile opinions, to reach agreements, to harmonize positions and to agree on solutions, of course after conversing or holding dialogue. But if one is willing to hold dialogue, becoming opposed after negotiating, then how can the Assembly be made to progress? What sense does it make to say that they might converse with us if, in the end, they utter, without hedging, as a dogmatic, radical, sectarian, proposition (through Deputy Villalobos Villalobos, as deputy chief of the Illuminati) the bombastic, irreversible statement: "We don't believe in negotiations; we have absolutely nothing to negotiate with the National Liberation Party" (13 May, aforementioned minutes).

As if the foregoing were not enough to create the legislative atmosphere that President Arias' government has faced, that same Calderonist whom the new baptismal waters have assigned to overly dissent from his colleagues in the last legislature, had no qualms about stating that, "In our faction that term 'negotiation' doesn't exist" (5 June, Minutes No 21); but he went even further in expressing the fanaticism and sectarian inflexibility of the "new" Unity. He even went so far as to blame the deputies from that same political party who had acted from 1982 to 1986: "In the last Congress, there was complacency in the Social Christian Unity Party allowing the National Liberation Party to pass the bills that the government wished. The situation is different now" (the same minutes).

This being the case, to fulfill his mandate, President Arias has faced the congressional situation with patience, flexibility, determination, and a wise understanding of the tasks involving continuity and change incumbent on the new Liberation cadres who received the mandate to exercise political power. Let us observe:

1. "PROGAS-FODEA" project; begun under the Monge administration. It involved ratification of the loan contract between Costa Rica and the IDB, amounting to \$35.8 million for a livestock development and animal health program. Dr Arias told us that it was important and urgently needed. We submitted a motion to negotiate it on a priority basis, and it received only our 29 votes. PUSC alleged, as an excuse for its obstruction, that it contained regulations dissociated from the project, but they paid no heed to a proposal of ours to eliminate all of them (including those that PUSC had introduced) and to pass the original plan. Thus, the country was left without that financial and technical resource.

2. Interim agreement for tuna fishing. Despite the fact that PLN and PUSC had agreed to approve it in the previous legislature, and left it in a third debate, from the outset, the Christian Democratic Illuminati, in collusion with the Communist representatives, from whom they lifted the burden of the anti-Yankee struggle, engaged in stubbornly combating the provisional agreement, without offering the country anything in exchange except the empty hands of despair, for Puntarenas and the nation as a whole. At first, the government acted rather indifferently (the Ministry of Agriculture never concerned itself with the matter). It was claimed that the agreement was not included among the issues of the electoral campaign. Later, the executive branch considered withdrawing it from the Assembly, while other matters with which it was directly concerned were discussed and spirits were calmed. Later, it battled along with us, firmly and skillfully, on behalf of the virtues of the project, and because the latter had exceeded the bounds of a technical discussion, becoming a political confrontation that will, for the next 4 years, test the courage of the Arias administration, as well as its willingness to negotiate democratically and respectably, as is fitting, any other matter of national concern.

President Arias told us that the political struggle had even penetrated the electorate which brought him to power, and that he would not accept an early defeat. He accompanied us in every attempt at negotiation to prevent the obstruction of the Assembly; and, on 11 June, he even sent a letter to all the deputies, which he made public, and which was also signed by Foreign Minister Madrigal Nieto, not only to support the tuna fishing agreement, but also to "set up," during the next 90 days, a national, multiparty commission responsible for proposing a permanent agreement (called for in the interim one) as a sign of good will and a desire to take PUSC's opinion into account, primarily. But, what Unity and its Communist and Socialist allies wanted was to test their own strength, rather than make their reasoning prevail; and hence they went off the track until they lost their first confrontation with the government.

3. The International Convention on Repression and Punishment of Apartheid as an International Crime. It was not signed by this government either, but

was supported wholeheartedly by it. We have even learned that it gave the go-ahead to the restless, idealist Deputy Cruickshank Smith, to continue with his initiative of requesting the break-off of diplomatic relations with South Africa, which the Assembly approved and the chief executive decided to approve later, in accordance with his exclusive powers.

4. Law for Creation of the National Housing Financial System. This bill of President Arias' government did not meet with opposition, and the executive branch showed flexibility for its passage in the Economic Affairs Commission.

5. The Commission on Financial Affairs approved the plans for foreign loans to finance the impressive Miravalles geothermal project, conceived and executed by ICE [Costa Rican Electricity Institute].

6. The Law on Restructuring of the Executive Branch; now called the "Law on Restructuring of the Executive Branch Ministries." It has caused a great deal of warring on the Financial Affairs Commission, which I head. In the press and the Assembly plenary session, PUSC has claimed to be opposed to that initiative of the Arias administration. In my commission, the signals are confused and contradictory. Until the end of July, the mood had been one of reservations bordering on rejection, among the Christian Democratic deputies. On the government side, there was flexibility, and a desire for compromise and consensus. We deputies on the commission intended to give an impetus to the bill, with a willingness to be constructive and harmonizing. Perhaps PUSC may ultimately approve it in time to look at it in special sessions or, in any event, it may calmly, for the good of the country, agree to give the matter priority in the regular sessions during September.

In 1962, the great former President Orlich remarked: "The forces of totalitarianism are roaming free in America. They are riding without restraint on the historic disappointments of peoples, goaded by the agents of despotism." With all the more reason, at the present time, with the country viewing the Communist vanguard of Nicaragua's aggressive, pharisaical regime, it is to be hoped that, with the commotion of the elections over, and with the subsequent perplexity, they will secularize PUSC, and its radicalism will be replaced; in this way, the term "negotiation" will again be in the democratic arsenal of the major opposition party. President Arias' government has not hesitated to give PUSC the opportunity to carry out its opposition endeavor constructively, and has even encouraged it. As deputies, our action will be consistent with the government's position, responsibility toward our electorate and, in particular, responsibility toward the country. That is our hope and our determination.

Luis Ml. Chacon Jimenez

During the spring of 1933, 100 days into his first administration, Franklin D. Roosevelt achieved the goal of lending confidence to the United States banking system and, at the same time, dealing with the extremely serious problem of the unemployment existing at the time, by means of various types of legislation which was sometimes even controversial, while that country

to the north was being debilitated by one of the worst depressions recorded in its history. Since then, the governments have adopted the habit of evaluating themselves, or being evaluated, upon the completion of the first 100 days of their administration.

In the 1982 political campaign and at the beginning of the pertinent government term of the National Liberation Party, the latter made of the 100 days a complete allegorical fiction, promising salvation from the crisis, which aroused great expectations among the people, but which in the end proved to be more words than deeds.

Possibly in view of the experience that had occurred with the first 100 days of the previous administration, and based on the assumption that "the crisis has been brought under control," according to former President Monge's remarks, President Arias' administration did not make any announcement either during his campaign or after it concerning the necessity and importance of adopting prompt, essential measures during the first 100 days of his government.

The work of a government is usually assessed by contrasting its achievements with the expectations that it established in its program or evoked among the electorate. In the case of the present government, in the absence of a publicly known government program, I shall attempt to analyze the basic situations cited by Don Oscar in his inauguration address; because we are apparently still without information on what, when and how he intends to do what we assume the president has in mind.

Dr Arias spoke about a government without discrimination and with privileges favoring the downtrodden. Contrary to this proposition, the wage-earning sector perceives the Arias administration as follows, according to press disclosures:

"The general dissatisfaction is becoming apparent among the organized workers as a somewhat delayed reaction to the increase in prices of various basic consumer items. The unrest has its origin not only among community associations and independent unions, but also among confederated organizations, and in the trade union confederations themselves, which have thousands of members.

"...they are only now paying the wage hike for January, and a series of price increases has already been ordered which have absorbed the entire increment. "

The foregoing pertains to the government with "privileges favoring the downtrodden." What they have not explained to us is that they will be the "ones privileged" to suffer the consequences of a Monge administration whose vainglories have proven to be precisely that: vain glories; and of an Arias administration whose "Arista characteristics" are still dim except for measures such as the hikes in the price of beans (from 37.75 to 49.65 colones), of rice (from 27.25 to 30.40 colones), of corn (from 12.75 to 15.10 colones), of rolls (from 0.75 to 1 colon), of lard (from 40.50 to 50 colones), of sugar (from 23.50 to 26.80 colones), of coffee (from 60 to 67 colones), of eggs (from 74.50 to 86 colones), and of tortillas (from 39 to 42.20 colones).

Nevertheless, it is only fair to acknowledge that now caviar and salmon may be procured at a better price, and it should not surprise us if, some one of these days, an increase in the cost of milk is prescribed for our population, but the cost of champagne is reduced. In other words, Don Oscar Arias' Liberation government has carried out a policy detrimental to the downtrodden or, as a SITRAE [Trade Union of State Workers] leader put it, "aimed at hitting workers' pocketbooks."

Moreover, on 10 May, with the high-sounding name "Restructuring of the Executive Branch," the respective bill was sent to the Legislative Assembly. This, rather than the result of serious study, analysis, and proposal on the part of the executive branch, was nothing but a mere occurrence whereby three ministries were created, only the names of which were given. This was published in LA GACETA; nevertheless, what has been made known to the Commission on Finance was something completely different, because the executive branch itself had to admit the enormous flaws in the first one. But the monkey, even if dressed in silk, is still a monkey; and the new bill sent to the Finance Commission is more flawed, by the mere fact of being more lengthy. The Liberation deputies are agreeable toward changing it; because there is no such "restructuring," but what it calls for is the creation of three ministerial portfolios and a very slight reorganization of the two already in existence. This bill runs counter to principles of the General Law on Public Administration, principles of administrative efficiency; and it even runs counter to constitutional principles, which by now appears to be a practice of the PLN leaders. In connection with this bill, at a meeting attended by such distinguished legal experts as Piza Escalante and Piza Rocafort, as well as by representatives of the executive branch, the former noted that it was better to create a new bill, because the one submitted has so many errors that the option of redoing it is easier. The fellow Deputies Mendez Mata and Fishman Zonzinki have engaged in a thorough study of this matter and have already proposed over 30 reforms; because, as Deputy Fishman commented at the entrance to the Presidential House, the bill "had neither feet nor head." This reveals, quite seriously and concretely, the degree of improvisation with which the government took office, and the surreptitious intention of purely and simply fostering a greater bureaucratic expansion.

The president says that he is attempting to modernize the production structure but, as in almost everything he says, the estimable Mr Arias has not indicated definite policies. It would appear that he is waiting for the miraculous intervention of a "deus ex machina" that would extricate him from the difficulty.

But what are the non-measures which we do know about? Fuel prices have not dropped despite the considerable decline that has occurred in those for crude; taking competitive capacity from the industry and, in general, from all economic activities, particularly those engaged in exporting.

Another example: A cut in bank interest has been announced for the agricultural sector, but it so happens that there is no available credit to put this measure into effect. There is an awareness of the need for a banking restructuring; it has been announced, yet nothing is being done.

And we continue: Don Oscar has told us that an impetus must be given to the cooperative sector, and, consistent with his policy that "yes" means "no," as soon as he makes the appointment of his cabinet, he eliminates the Ministry of Cooperative Affairs. A proposal from government deputies even attempted to eliminate the cooperative sector's participation in programs of national interest, such as the national financing system for housing. In the transportation area, the cooperative movement has experienced uncertainty with the lack of clearcut policies, specifically, for the payment of the tariff differential, and the operating permits, as well as the lack of backing for the small transportation cooperatives. To summarize, quite the opposite of its underlying principles, lack of stimulation and indifference have typified the executive branch's management in this respect.

And if we turn our attention to the area of community development we shall find improvisation, the absence of plans, and disrespect for functional independence: three general directors of DINADECO [National Directorate of Community Development] within a 3-month interval; the National Development Council has been formed after 3 months of government; and the delegates from these associations are complaining that they were pressured to vote for those recommended by the Presidential House to hold positions on the Popular Bank's board of directors.

Strangely enough, the only project that seems to be progressing is the one relating to the housing sector. And I say strangely because it is based precisely on a Social Christian Unity program widely publicized in the campaign. Unfortunately, it is not up to us Social Christians to ensure that the instruments necessary for putting this program the execution of which is urgently required into effect are determined, because that is incumbent on the government. Our contribution can only go so far as the definition of the program; a contribution which we have already made and which could help the Liberation administration to at least carry out one of its offers; what follows is beyond our potential.

How PLN attacked us during the campaign, because we said that, except in special cases, vacancies in the public sector would not be filled! Public employees were threatened, telling them that our entry into the government, and the putting of the "chainsaw" into operation was a single, simultaneous act. And in the renegotiation that the "Arista" administration is engaged in with the Monetary Fund, it is noted that they will eliminate 5,000 public positions. Can it be that when Dr Arias refers to the creation of 25,000 jobs per year, he means "jobs without employees"? Is it another "yes" that means "no"?

In his inaugural address, Don Oscar Arias stated:

"Today, we are confronting our challenges. The problems of the present demand different solutions, filled with imagination and daring." And he added: "But we also want to do new things, which respond to the challenges of the times. We are in a new world, and we have not yet solved some very old problems..."

During the 100 days of his government that have elapsed, not only have no new things been done, but new solutions have not even been provided; rather, a few things have been done, and no old or new solutions have been provided for old problems. Imagination has been lacking, and verbal daring has been abundant.

Finally, the government's foreign policy pursuits have vanished in a wake of failures, born of rosy dreams that are not in keeping with the harsh socio-political reality in which we are submerged.

One of its obsessive issues, the signing of the Contadora Act by Nicaragua, was not achieved; the famous document that was to be signed by the Latin American presidents attending Dr Arias' inauguration, in order to form an alliance pressuring Nicaragua to initiate the democratic system, was not signed; in other words, it was not accomplished either. But what was attained was the creation of a tense situation between Costa Rica and its leading ally, thanks to Dr Oscar Arias' unfortunate remarks during his "pre-honeymoon" trip to South America, shortly before taking office, only to curry favor with the United States later, feeling secure based on the premise that to sin and pay makes things even; conveying a factional line to his congressmen, so that they would vote for the tuna fishing agreement, even though the latter by no means benefited Costa Rica. Frankly, for the good of the nation, it is to be hoped that Don Oscar will postpone his Bolivarian illusions and, attempt, to the extent of his ability, to be guided by a foreign policy that is more realistic and effective.

2909

CSO: 3248/602

INCREASED REPORTING OF THEFT, FIRES

Car Break-ins

FL211830 Havana Radio Periodico del Aire in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] MININT [Ministry of Interior] members have captured red-handed a resident of Arroyo Naranjo while he was removing a radio-cassette player from a car parked at the Parque de Paseo and Fifth Streets in Vedado. After investigating the matter, it was learned that the individual has carried out 15 similar acts in various areas of Vedado and a second person had sold the stolen goods.

The two citizens have been sent before the peoples' tribunal.

Warehouse Thefts

FL211936 Havana Radio Periodico del Aire in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] PRN [National Revolutionary Police] personnel in El Cerro have arrested two citizens found hiding in an empty lot on Infanta and Manglar Streets after having broken and entered into a warehouse located at Santana and Mariano Streets from which several articles had been taken.

During the investigation, it was learned that 12 more citizens were carrying out the same activities in trade and service centers and are responsible for 19 forceful entries in several areas.

It was also learned that two other persons were selling the stolen goods in their work areas. These individuals are at the disposition of the tribunals.

Warehouse Fire

FL221207 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] A large fire has totally destroyed the chemical substances and related products warehouse at Palma Soriano's Baydee Santamaria Cuadrado Publishing House. The fire occurred yesterday and although there were no deaths, it resulted in considerable material damage. The fire's causes are being investigated by Interior Ministry specialists.

/8309

CSO: 3248/621

BRIEFS

NEW FUEL CRISIS--With Guyana again in the grips of a fuel shortage, President Desmond Hoyte last night rejected rumours that it stemmed from a collapse of the new supply agreement with neighbouring Venezuela. He also announced that two emergency shipments would arrive before weekend. "The inconvenience we are experiencing because of the fuel situation did not result from any breakdown of our agreement with Venezuela," he said in a radio broadcast. "It had nothing to do with any default by either the Guyanese or the Venezuelan authorities. The agreements are intact, remain in full force and effect, and are working well." Officials earlier had blamed the fuel shortage on the breakdown of a Texaco-owned tanker transporting supplies here from Venezuela. Hoyte said under alternative arrangements involving two dealers, Shell would bring in 161,000 gallons of gasoline tomorrow and Esso would receive a shipment of 210,000 gallons on Friday. Earlier this year, Guyana experienced an acute fuel shortage, evidenced by the long queues of vehicles waiting outside petrol stations for as long as 24 hours to obtain supplies. [Text][Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 13 Aug 86 p 17]/12828

CSO: 3298/536

ROW ERUPTS OVER GOVERNMENT ACTION AGAINST PRIEST

Work Stoppages

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 13 Aug 86 p 15

[Text]

PLYMOUTH, Tuesday (CANA) — A business sector-led protest against the Montserrat Government's decision to expel a St Kitts-born Anglican priest intensified this afternoon, with a work stoppage by civil servants and essential service workers.

The Chamber of Commerce, which launched the protest this morning calling for all businesses to be closed for the day, this afternoon reported a near 100 per cent response to its appeal.

The medical association, grouping the island's doctors, said its members had also joined the protest by suspending public clinics and restricting their private practice. Only emergency cases will be dealt with at public clinics.

The national upheaval follows the government's announcement yesterday that it had served a deporation order against the Reverend Alston Percival, accused by the authorities of meddling in local politics.

Percival, chairman of the Montserrat Christian Council (MCC), was given seven days to leave or be put out. He has denied the government's charge that he dabbled in politics.

General secretary of the Montserrat Allied Workers' Union (MAWU), Verene Thomas, said electricity, water, port, and aviation workers along with colleagues in social security voted during a general meeting this morning to "withhold their services until further notice".

The government radio station also went off the air just before midday.

Church, Government Talks

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Aug 86 p 16

[Text] **PLYMOUTH, Montserrat, Aug. 14, Cana** — CHURCH and Government leaders in Montserrat met today to resolve a dispute that has triggered business closures, the slowdown of work in the public sector as well as the disruption of water and electricity supplies.

Churchmen Orland Lindsay, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese that includes this British colony, had talks with Governor Arthur Watson, Chief Minister John Osborne and other Government Ministers on the row over Priest Alston Percival, ordered to leave the colony.

Informed sources told Cana the meeting threw up recommendations for resolving the dispute and the Montserrat Christian Council had scheduled a meeting for later today to discuss them.

Refuses To Go

The Government has accused Percival of meddling in Montserrat's political affairs and told him to leave the island by Sunday. Churchmen, several businessmen and trade unionists are backing Percival, who refuses to go.

Last night the Chamber of Commerce called for a shutdown of the business community after the Govern-

ment continued to maintain that Percival must leave.

For the third day, today, businesses remained closed and hundreds of civil servants stayed off the job.

Reduced turn-outs at workplaces has led to disruptions in the water and electricity services.

Representatives of the Christian Council and the Chamber of Commerce today led a protest march to Government House.

At the same time Bishop Lindsay and a diocesan delegation was meeting with Governor Watson, Osborne, other Government Ministers and officials.

Percival and a delegation from the Christian Council were later invited to join the meeting.

Today's march on Government House followed a church service which attracted hundreds including members of the Montserrat Allied Workers' Union, the Medical Association and Public service organisations.

Government Compromise

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Aug 86 p 1

[Text] **PLYMOUTH, Aug. 15, Cana** — THE MONTSERRAT Government is to withdraw an expulsion order on Anglican priest Alston Percival after he agreed to leave Montserrat at the end of the year.

The compromise agreement was announced last night after three days of islandwide strikes and protests.

Business returned to normal in this British colony of 12,000 people today.

The agreement was reached during talks involving Bishop Orland Lindsay, Archdeacon Peter Dalley, Percival, Governor Arthur Watson, and Chief Minister John Osborne and his Cabinet.

But the protest leaders, including the Montserrat Christian Council, the Montserrat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Montserrat Allied Workers' Union, say basic issues with the Government have been only postponed, not resolved.

Religious and civic groups said the action against Percival was an abuse of individual human rights.

Return To Work

Kittitian-born Percival, who has denied Government charges of meddling in local politics, had been given until Sunday to leave the island.

A spokesman for the protest organisations said that arising out of the Percival affair, there were problems that needed to be addressed, including the freedom of the Church from manipulation and interference by politicians and the erosion of the individual's right to freedom of expression.

Calling on all workers to return to work today, general secretary of the Montserrat Allied Workers' Union, Verene Thomas, said she hoped there would be no reprisals.

Business opened as usual this morning and utility companies, which were hit by the protest, resumed normal operations.

Osborne on Elections

Bridgetown CANA in English 1952 GMT 18 Aug 86

[Text] Plymouth, Aug 18--Monsterrat's chief minister, John Osborne, today ruled out the possibility of an early general election. In an interview with CANA Radio, Osborne said his party had made no plans for an early poll.

The opposition politicians had speculated that an upheaval in this British colony caused by the government's decision to expel an Anglican priest, Alston Percival, would force the government into an early poll.

Several businesses were closed and hundreds of government workers stayed off the job last week, demanding St Kitts-born Rev Percival be allowed to stay. However, a compromise was reached with the priest, accused by the government of meddling in the colony's political affairs, agreeing to leave at the end of the year and the government dropping the expulsion order.

We never had any plans or made any plans for an early election, Osborne told CANA Radio. This is another opposition tactic. The constitutional date for general elections is 1988 and we haven't made any other arrangement.

In the interview, Osborne listed unemployment among the colony's major problems. He said establishment of the island's first casino and associated hotel would ease the problem.

The hotel-casino project, which has long been on the drawing board, has come under heavy fire from churchmen and the government's political opponents.

I believe if you were to take a vote on building...the hotel with the casino it would be (in favour) mainly because of the economic situation, Osborne said. He added: the people want work to earn a living and certainly that (project) would provide a living for a good number of people.

Opposition Coalition Moves

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 Aug 86 p 5

[Text] **PLYMOUTH, Aug. 19, Cana** — TWO OPPOSITION political parties here appear to be moving cautiously toward some kind of coalition, after early efforts at an accommodation failed.

The Progressive Democratic Party (PDP), led by former Chief Minister Austin Bramble, joined the newly-formed National Development Party (NDP) of business executive Bertrand Osborne, for a joint rally last night.

Bramble spent some time underscoring the need to consolidate the Opposition vote on the island.

Declaration that a split in the Opposition vote always favoured the ruling party, Bramble added: "In Montserrat, a split of the Opposition vote could be devastating to the Opposition cause, as well as the cause and

interest of the people..."

The NDP and PDP held some preliminary discussions about a coalition to contest the next general election here, but little progress was reported.

The joint rally last night, however, could indicate some forward movement has been made, observers believe.

Speakers at the rally predictably attacked Government policies, with Bramble declaring: "...let us face it; it was politics of lies that got us where we are today under the Progressive Liberation Movement..."

Order Rescinded

They also dedicated some attention to mass protests last week, over a Government decision to deport Anglican priest, Rev. Fr. Alston Percival, for allegedly meddling in the British colony's political affairs. The deportation order has since been rescinded.

Osborne, of the NDP, accused the Government of spending its time attacking people, rather than addressing the issues.

He denounced the administration as oppressive, and said he had been informed that Government would soon introduce laws making work permits mandatory for foreign priests.

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CSO: 3298/537

UNO LEADER CRUZ COMMENTS ON SANDINIST REGIME, RESISTANCE

PA150329 San Jose RUMBO in Spanish 8-14 Aug 86 pp 20, 21

[Report on RUMBO interview with Arturo Cruz, leader of the Nicaraguan Opposition Unity [UNO] on 30 June; place not given]

[Text] Arturo Cruz, in an exclusive interview for RUMBO on 30 June, said that the measures imposed by the Sandinist government at the end of June when it closed LA PRENSA newspaper and prohibited the entry into Nicaragua of two Catholic priests, are not only due to the rebel aid agreed to by the U.S. Congress, but to the government's intention to consolidate a totalitarian regime.

He said that the U.S. support became the immediate trigger for the Sandinists to take action against the people and opposition, but another important factor was that the Contadora Group, which up until then had been used by the Sandinists to gain time, had begun to play a secondary role to the Central American countries.

"Knowing the commanders, I know they are worried because international pressures are increasing, and the focus on the double path (military-political) is becoming an effective reality."

Cruz added that presently the greatest benefit that the Managua Government could gain would be the consolidation of their power, and if with this objective they have to sacrifice a little international support for their propaganda needs, "I believe that the choice is clear: the Sandinists will go for totalitarian power."

The Reaction

The U.S. House of Representatives on 25 June approved by 12 votes President Ronald Reagan's plan for \$100 million in military and humanitarian aid for anti-Sandinist forces grouped within the UNO and whose leaders are Adolfo Calero, Alfonso Robelo, and Arturo Cruz himself.

On 26 June, the Nicaraguan Government ordered the indefinite closure of the LA PRENSA daily, followed by a strong warning to the opposition. In addition, President Daniel Ortega Saavedra said that the state of emergency, which had been in force since March 1982, would be strictly and severely enforced.

Following that, on 28 June, Father Bismarck Carballo, a close collaborator of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, was not allowed back into his country, thus forcing him into exile. A week later Bishop Pablo Antonio Vega was expelled to Honduras.

Cruz said that the Sandinists are afraid of the formation of an internal front, but any religious or civilian leader that opposes the regime and contributes to strengthening internal resistance is anathema, and from the official perspective, constitutes a danger.

"It would not surprise me if the Sandinists try to break the internal leadership, and as they did with Carballo and Vega, coax a few, and condition their behavior even more. I have heard that some political religious, and trade union leaders will be ousted from Nicaragua."

Regarding the reopening of the La Prensa daily, he did not rule out this possibility, but it would mean tremendous censorship, in which probably 80 percent of the material would be eliminated.

The regime "is showing its teeth and is prepared to repress any attempt to a front or internal rebellion, or popular demonstrations. This is going to grow."

Advance

Arturo Cruz asserted that ever since the Sandinist administration rose to power in 1979, it has worn a "mask."

"The general discontent that violently rejected Anastasio Somoza, in addition to the international rejection of him, was very shrewdly used by the FSLN to sell the idea of a social democratic project. There was an enthusiastic national consensus that brought them to power. They appeared to be social democrats, and they become not only a military vanguard but also a political vanguard and begin to undermine the Broad Opposition Front--that was eminently pluralist--and it was replaced with structures that the FSLN could trust."

According to Cruz, the Sandinists officially maintain a pluralist charter and make the world believe that they respect it. These tactical concepts give them a certain flexibility. However, "as the regime gradually advances it definitely heads toward totalitarian consolidation."

"They have been advancing and teaching their totalitarianism. Arrangements have been made with the USSR at the party and government levels, and the entire system is made Sandinist."

In spite of the fact the Sandinists have tried to take a different stand in the international field, practically everyone is convinced of the totalitarian nature of Nicaragua.

Departure

Until some time ago, Cruz thought that a political option was the most convenient thing for his country. However, he admits that following his departure from Nicaragua in 1981, his skepticism over the FSLN's attitude grew.

"Recently, the four democratic governments of Central America finally convinced me that this [democratic opening] is not possible, and even they have been able to see for themselves that the Sandinists do not want a political solution."

In January of this year, the internal opposition presented a proposal to the government demanding a national reconciliation and the democratization of Nicaragua. The attitude of the Front has been the same: They are not interested. The only way the Nicaraguan internal opposition could contribute to a political settlement would be by accepting submission, Cruz said.

However, what would be the alternative if there is not a political solution? A U.S. invasion, or a Central American confrontation?

Cruz believes that the Opposition Nicaraguan Unity [UNO] is an element of pressure within a military effort, that, combined with an uprising of the people and with spectacular military actions, could oust the Sandinists. Even so, the lack of unity of the Nicaraguan political resistance makes that possibility very difficult.

Some analysts believe that the only feasible position for ousting the Managua regime would be a Central American struggle, with the logistical support of the United States.

When the opposition leader was asked to comment on this, he cautiously said that he does not believe a direct U.S. intervention is possible in Nicaragua, now or ever, because the political cost is very high. He did not rule out that there may be pressure by the countries of the isthmus, with U.S. support, that might achieve "a final struggle."

Arturo Cruz said these hypotheses could be expected if UNO fails in its battle to establish a new democratic order. "Calero, Robelo, and I have agreed in Miami not to create any more organizations or parallel structures to achieve a greater unification of the rebel forces. We have all the instruments necessary for winning the war and a historical challenge to establish a true democracy in Nicaragua."

The UNO leader said there are two political steps that might help them reach their goals: establishing a consultative assembly and broadening the directorate. The assembly would have three powers: consulting, recommending, and resolving.

Broadening the directorate would consist of including other representatives to participate, such as Indians, workers, businessmen, and so forth.

UNO was created by Adolfo Calero, Arturo Cruz, and Alfonso Robelo on 12 June 1985. The three of them participated in the Nicaraguan revolution. Cruz and Robelo occupied high-ranking positions in the Sandinist government.

Cruz, a former member of the provisional Nicaraguan Government junta, and former Sandinist ambassador to Washington, was a presidential candidate for the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board, until that coalition formed by politicians, workers, and businessmen gave up the electoral campaign and decided to reject the elections of 4 November 1984.

His union with Calero, the political director of the FDN, which is the largest of the insurgent groups, and with Robelo, who is the leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, represented a significant step, because Cruz had always kept himself away from the armed opposition.

According to Cruz, his decision to join and form the UNO, was entirely provoked by Sandinist intransigence, which completely reduced the possibilities for political participation.

Despite that coalition, several political observers say that there are large differences among the three leaders, especially between Calero, who follows the military trend, and Cruz and Robelo, who prefer the political one.

Cruz told RUMBO that that was untrue, and that although it is true that there are sectors which identify with the political orientation, there are others, which clearly and openly identify with Calero.

Cruz said: "There are differences, but we are working to prevent the consolidation of the Sandinist regime, and we are proud of being united in that struggle."

Besides those alleged differences, the UNO leaders have had to face other problems; for example the accusations of corruption presented against them.

It is said that high-ranking military chiefs are taking large amounts of money from the U.S. financial aid, in order to become rich.

In that regard, Arturo Cruz said that UNO directors requested the U.S. agencies to improve their control systems, to demand a complete investigation, for investigations not to be left in midair, without definite conclusion, and for the verdict to be released to the public. In addition, Cruz asserted that they are improving their "internal accounts, and carrying out investigations in order to find the culprits, in case there are any."

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CSO: 3248/619

PROTESTANT TEMPLE IN MANAGUA DESTROYED

PA281629 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 27 Aug 86 p 5

[Communique issued by the Directorate of Public and International Relations of the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry in Managua on 26 August]

[Text] The Directorate of Public and International Relations of the Interior Ministry reports to the people that on Sunday, 24 August, from 2300 to 2400, a group of approximately 200 Venezuela neighborhood residents vandalized and destroyed buildings that were used as a temple by the Protestant denomination, Assembly of God. During the incident, Mr Elmer Guerrero was seriously injured and is currently hospitalized.

The preliminary investigations indicate that this incident stems from a dispute over the use of the land where the above-mentioned temple was being built. The land was community property that had been used as a park and sports area. The alleged unlawful occupation of the land by the pastor of that temple had greatly disturbed the area residents, who met to carry out the action already described.

The Sandinist Police have identified and captured the main instigators of this riot. After the investigations on the alleged culprits are completed, they will be placed under the order of the appropriate judge for trial.

Managua, 26 August 1986. Twenty-five years later, all weapons against aggression!

Directorate of Public and International Relations of the Interior Ministry.

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CSO: 3248/620

BRIEFS

CONVERSION OF MILITARY RANKS--The Interior Ministry's Directorate of Public and International Relations informs the Nicaraguan people that the conversion of the military ranks as well as promotions will be carried out as part of the ministry's seventh anniversary celebration on 17 October 1986, at a solemn ceremony led by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra. Given in the city of Managua on 22 August 1986. [Communique issued by the Directorate of Public and International Relations of the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry in Managua on 22 August] [Text] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Aug 86 PA] /12232

D'ESCOTO-'ARAFAT MEETING--Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has met in Baghdad with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. During the meeting, they discussed the Middle East conflict and the international situation. They are both visiting Iraq. [Text] [Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Aug 86 PA] /12232

CSO: 3248/618

PARTIES IN PRE-ELECTION JOCKEYING: DATE MAY BE SET SOON

Discussion of Race Issue

[Anthony Milne Column "Election '86": "A Counter Blast to Racist Politics"]

[Text]

UNLESS MANY PEOPLE are mistaken, race will once again play a role in the campaign for the Trinidad and Tobago general election.

The national anthem speaks of every creed and race finding an equal place, and the tourist brochures note the wonderful peace that exists among the "many" different groups; those who live here know differently, at any rate at election time.

In this respect, the efforts of the Christian Council and anyone else with the same concerns must be highly commended. It is time racist politics was beaten, and the present movement towards two strong "national" parties, crossing all the lines, is good in this respect.

Emphasis ought to be placed on this by the parties themselves, in a cultivation of "new politics," and the temptation to small-town racist campaigning for quick returns avoided.

But is this at all possible and is it happening yet?

The recent statement from Prime Minister George Chambers on whom his party represents and the storm of criticism, unwarranted or not, that accompanied it, show how close to the surface this matter lies.

At a recent political meeting in Caroni, an elegant gentleman clicked his gold cigarette case shut and made an intervention on the subject.

"Mr PW Botha," he told his listeners, "has passed a law called apartheid separating people in South Africa.

In Trinidad and Tobago, on the other hand, my party has made it possible for all races to live in harmony."

Politicians opposed to this gentleman might claim the opposite; but the statement is an indication of the way in which South Africa, as a racial issue, has become a local political concern.

Both the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) and the ruling party want to be seen to be the real champions of black people, here and elsewhere: this is the key to power in the formidable East-West corridor.

There have been motions in the UN Security Council and calls for boycotts or sanctions.

Oddly, there have also been beatings of anti-

apartheid demonstrators outside the Queen's Park Oval, and a confidential report on this fiasco has remained in the hands of the Government for months, impossible to release since the matter is still in the court's jurisdiction — and cannot be brought as quickly to trial as other recent matters for reasons that remain unexpressed.

Often, there are "officially" only two races here, a judgment perhaps influenced by the substantial number of votes involved.

For example, among the NAR's plans for "cultural development," in its new *Agenda for the Future*, is a Folk Centre.

Included in the main areas for research and display is: "Afro- and Indo-Trinidad and Tobago with the emphasis on cultural identities, costumes, artifacts, ceremonies."

No mention of anyone else.

The explanation was that this was an oversight, to be corrected as the document is amended.

They forgot to pay even lip service to "French Creoles" (and this group's Portuguese, Syrian etc, subdivisions),

to the Chinese, to the Carib Queen and her extensive family, to *Coco Pagnols* and all the various mixtures whose culture is only Trinidadian.

Is this perhaps a harbinger of the campaign to come, like the Prime Minister's recent statements?

For if it is popular for politicians to claim to be particularly sympathetic to one "group," or perhaps two, it is equally popular for them to be dead against another "group" and all it represents.

What used to be the ONR was thoroughly abused for daring to do something different: *Every* creed and race?

This evil is particularly dangerous because it can, and sometimes is, transferred to the relationship between the two major groups, and offers fuel to the arguments of those who say elections should be done away with altogether because of their divisive effect.

So far the worst has been kept in check, here if not in Burnham's mudlands.

The PNM has every right to attempt to win all the Caroni seats, especially since they may lose some in the East-West Corridor; the joining of two great forces in the NAR is expected to

provide a way across the great divide.

There is no shame whatever in one party having inherited from another: this splitting has occurred in all great two-party systems, not that the system must be absolutely two-party — it has not been this way for a long time in the home of "Westminster democracy," and is becoming less and less so there.

The election will be won, we are assured, in the East West corridor. One NAR politician,

speaking frankly, told the people of Malick recently that change is up to them.

Ironically it is largely to these parts that the illegal Grenadian and Vincentian immigrants the Opposition says the PNM has let in have come, bringing a new culture, claiming special rights, and suddenly assuming they are more Trinidadian than anyone else.

Now there has been a new twist to the conundrum, with the NAR advocating an amnesty for immigrants already here, and no doubt claiming their votes at the same time.

Indeed this is a time of new alignments.

NAR on Code of Ethics

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Aug 86 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO — THE NATIONAL Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) intends to keep that solemn pledge that it gave to the Christian Council of Churches — that the NAR will stick to the code of ethics outlined by the Churches for the general election.

Last Saturday morning, Political Leader A.N.R. Robinson, Deputy Political Leaders Basdeo Panday, and Elections Manager Anthony Smart addressed a one-day seminar organised by the party and held at Barron Building, Cipero Road.

The seminar dealt with the conduct of the NAR political campaign, platform ethics, public speaking and generally the code of ethics proposed by the Christian Council of Churches.

Keeping It Clean

A spokesman for the NAR said yesterday: "NAR is seeking to keep the election campaign clean".

He said the NAR believed there would be rumour mongering and character assassination.

"But we have given the Christian Council of Churches our word that we will stick to the code of ethics as proposed by them," he added.

Meanwhile, the various constituencies of the NAR are organising conferences to discuss the matters relating to the upcoming general election.

The Couva North constituency will hold its conference on Saturday at 2 p.m. at Rienzi Complex, Couva.

Attack on Robinson

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 13 Aug 86 p 12

[Text]

A PEOPLE's National Movement (PNM) general council member has suggested that a "personal attack" made on Prime Minister George Chambers by National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) party leader Ray Robinson last Sunday be reported to the Christian Council of Churches (CCC).

Robinson said at an NAR meeting in St Joseph at the weekend that "Chambers is already politically dead and buried and we just need to put his ghost to rest now."

The Christian Council has advocated a code of ethics for those involved in the campaign leading to the general election expected by February next year for the latest.

The PNM council member said he believed Robinson was losing credibility for personal attacks on the Prime Minister, though anyone, who had witnessed Robinson's attitude in the 1984 Tobago House of Assembly Election would not be surprised.

The PNM's general council is to meet at Balisier House on Sunday, in the wake of a big party mobilisation meeting at the same venue the day before.

The report was presented to the PNM convention earlier this year.

Poll Date Speculations

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 17 Aug 86 p 1

[Text]

PRIME Minister George Chambers is likely to announce the date of the forthcoming general election on Sunday, September 28, when he delivers the feature address at an "Assembly of PNM Women" at the El Dorado Senior Comprehensive School.

Announcement of the meeting, at which party sources expect more than 5,000 women, was made at yesterday's election preparedness session held at the party's Ballisier House headquarters.

Prime Minister Chambers attended yesterday's meeting but did not speak. It was reported he wanted to assess for himself the reports from the various constituencies and the status of their mobilisation exercises.

On the likelihood of the Prime Minister announcing the date on that occasion, a party source said:

"As is well known, the women have always been the backbone of the party and it is quite likely he will chose that time to make the announcement."

Robinson Praise for Panday

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Aug 86 p 3

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO —

POLITICAL Leader of the National Alliance For Reconstruction (NAR) A.N.R. Robinson on Saturday paid public tribute to Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday, one of the Deputy Political Leaders of the party, for shouldering his responsibilities in his many spheres of activities, despite lots of pressures.

Mr. Robinson told a packed hall at the Rienzi Complex, Couva, on the occasion of the Couva North constituency meeting of the NAR, that he must pay tribute to Mr. Panday because few politicians in the Caribbean and, indeed few politicians elsewhere were subjected to pressures that Mr. Panday was subjected to because of his many responsibilities.

He said Mr Panday was the leader of an important union in the country, leader of the Opposition in the National Parliament; he had the responsibility of being one of the deputy political leaders of the NAR, while also being called upon of-

ten to practice his profession as a barrister at law.

"He is a man of many parts with many responsibilities subjected to many pressures, and I ask you to give him your fullest co-operation in the performance and the discharge of the responsibilities which fall upon his shoulders," the political leader said.

Mr Robinson said he was sure the constituents in Couva North would wish Mr Panday to continue to be their representative for the

foreseeable future.

However, Mr. Robinson warned the gathering that if it was their wish, then they might very well find that in the future Mr Panday would have to relinquish some of the responsibilities he now holds in order to undertake other and higher responsibilities.

"And I am sure, if and when that time comes, as it is likely to be the case, that you will welcome it and again you will give him and the NAR your whole hearted co-operation."

Mr Robinson told the cheering audience that the National Alliance for Reconstruction is what it says — it is a National Party. "We do not represent one section of the nation. We represent all sections of the nation," he emphasised.

He emphasised that the party was taking the responsibility of nationhood seriously. "And you could only build a nation on solid foundation when you recognise that in that nation as we do in our National Anthem — Every Creed and Race must find an equal place."

Concerns in PNM

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 18 Aug 86 p 3

[Text]

NON-attendance at Central Executive meetings of the People's National Movement (PNM) is causing concern within the party.

According to a memo sent to members of the Central Executive by the PNM secretariat, a meeting of the Central Executive scheduled for Tuesday, August 5, was the second consecutive meeting that did not come off because less than 10 members turned up.

There must be at least 10 members present before a meeting can take place.

"It may be necessary therefore," the memo continues, "to forward a record of attendance to the General Council so that a decision can be taken as to what follow-up action might be appropriate in the circumstances."

There is claimed to be some concern generally in the party about organisation and leadership.

But it is felt that Prime Minister George Chambers's announcement yesterday that he had instructed the party's general secretary to notify party groups to start the procedure for nomination of candidates could mean a new enthusiasm.

Activists, who have reportedly expressed worry over lack of direction should be reassured by this action, it has been suggested.

There were two big PNM meetings at Balisier House, Victoria Avenue, Port of Spain, at the weekend. On Saturday, constituency representatives and other activists met to discuss the party's election preparedness. On the agenda of yesterday's General Council meeting was the report of the PNM Youth Committee and the appointment of a new member of the Central Executive to replace Stanford Callender.

Call for Nominations

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Aug 86 p 1

[Article by John Babb]

[Text]

THE POLITICAL machinery of the People's National Movement (PNM) was cranked into motion yesterday by the party's Political Leader and Prime Minister, George Chambers, when he issued a directive to the 400-odd groups, giving them the green light to begin nominating candidates for the upcoming General Election.

At a meeting of the party's General Council, held at Balisier House, Mr Chambers instructed the General Secretary, Alvan Quamina, to write all party groups, informing them that they can proceed with the process of submitting nominations.

Yesterday's session followed a meeting of the PNM's Central Co-ordinating Committee which was held at the same venue on Saturday.

Mr Chambers's all-clear yesterday, some party sources said, places the timing of the General Election "in about three months from now."

And as one official hinted, "the tempo of jockeying in the party group camp for nomination will now be stepped up." But he reminded of Mr Chambers's recent statement that he - Mr. Chambers -

would be the 'most unpopular man' when it came to the selection of candidates for the 36 constituencies.

In the past it was well-known that a few nominees had bullied their way before the party's Screening Committee, but they were all rejected.

After the party groups have submitted their nominations, the Screening Committee, which is headed by the party's Chairman, will then fix dates for the screening of nominees.

October Convention

The Political Leader, Mr Chambers, in consultation with the Screening Committee, will make written recommendations on each nominee to the party's Central Executive, whose decision would be final.

Based on the time spent in screening nominees, party sources hinted yesterday, that the party's special convention at which the names of candidates for the 36 constituencies, would be announced, may take place towards the end of October.

After that, it would then be up to Mr Chambers to play his 'ace' - call the Election Date.

[The Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS of 19 August, page 3, also reports that "September 8 is the deadline" for the nominations by PNM constituency groups.]

["After this date, the screening committee gets to work on the task of choosing candidates from the nominees. The committee however, can meet before this and recommend several nominees to the constituency groups. The screening committee consists of Political Leader and Prime Minister, George Chambers; party chairman, Francis Prevatt; vice-chairman, Senator Russell Martineau; general secretary, Alvan Quamina; elections officer, Winston Best and party operations officer, Lionel Murray."]

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CSO: 3298/538

PRIME MINISTER RESUMES TOURS OF STATE ENTERPRISES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Aug 86 p 3

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER George Chambers will resume his visits to State-owned enterprises at 9.30a.m. on Monday. He will visit Trinidad and Tobago Printing and Packaging Limited and British West Indian (International) Airways.

The Prime Minister will be accompanied by the Minister of State Enterprises, Ronald Williams; Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Senator Wendell Mottley; Labour Minister John Donaldson and other Government officials.

Over the past months Mr. Chambers toured export-oriented factories in the private sector and heard a litany of complaints from manufacturers ranging from bureaucratic red tape to blunt refusal by some departments to perform certain functions.

However, much information about the manufacturing sector was gleaned from the tour, so much so that Mr. Chambers recalled recently that had he not visited the plants the population would not have been aware of what was going on in the manufacturing sector.

Health And Safety

While accompanying the Prime Minister on his rounds, Mr. Donaldson even noted that export manufacturers had shown an acute awareness of the need for good industrial relations and proper occupational health and safety requirements.

Mr. Donaldson said he was amazed at the facilities provided for workers by management, adding that the country would also be surprised

During his tour on Monday, it is expected that Mr. Chambers will be told of the problems that confront the State Enterprises sector.

TOBAGO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AGAIN AT ODDS WITH GOVERNMENT

Funding Irregularity Charges

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Aug 86 p 3

[Article by Gail Alexander]

[Text] **Plans for several long-term development projects in Tobago have been halted due to irregular funding by Government. This was stated by representatives of the Tobago House of Assembly last week, who told the media that Government's irregular disbursement of funds was causing a crisis.**

Further, Deputy Chairman of the Assembly, Dr Jeff Davidson, said that the non-receipt of funds placed a number of long-term development projects on hold.

One of these is the Scarborough Abattoir for which the Assembly received \$1m in 1985. This year no funds have been obtained to continue work on the project and it hangs suspended, according to Dr Davidson.

In May, Assembly members requested \$457,000 for development of tourism—the sister isle's mainstay—but received no reply to date.

The THA also requested funds for conducting marketing and intelligence research, but no money has been received since April this year.

The Assembly's agricultural programme—involving a special type of tropical-climate sheep, is suffering from lack of funds, as is its cultural development plan for which the THA requested \$135,000, and to date has received nothing.

The sister isle's infrastructure also stands to suffer, Dr Davidson said. He told the media that the Secondary Roads Company (SRC) shut down its operations on the Bon Accord Road development project last week be-

cause it had not received payment.

He added:

"They have also stopped work on the Bloody Bay-Roxborough project. We owe the SRC approximately \$943,000, and we need their services to complete our road development plans. Luckily enough we were able to complete and open the Mt Dillon-Castara section recently. But we have no funds to continue with the Windward Road development, another important project."

Immediate discussions

Dr Davidson called on Ministry of Finance officials to hold immediate discussions with the THA regarding the regular disbursement of funds. He said the Assembly needed approximately \$11m per month to meet its recurrent expenditure needs alone:

"We need to know how acute Government's situation is. Nobody is telling us anything and we are being forced to operate in the dark. How are we to know what steps to take when we don't know what is expected from us, and we are not receiving any information on the situation? he asked."

Government Response

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Aug 86 p 3

[Text]

MINISTRY of Finance officials have indicated that the Tobago House of Assembly has two fixed deposit accounts totalling \$33 million.

Last week THA representatives held a Press conference to complain about Government's irregular funding, and problems being caused in the sister isle as a result.

Assembly officials said that although the THA has no cash reserves, its account does have some money which is used to pay outstanding cheques.

None of them could estimate the amount of money in the account.

Ministry of Finance officials have said that they are aware the Assembly has two fixed deposit accounts at the NCB branch in the NIB Mall, Scarborough.

The deposits were made on January 3, 1986 and each contains \$16 million.

According to the Ministry, interest on each is 8.25 percent and is approximately \$6,046.99. Finance sources said that the total sum held by the Assembly is \$33,332,900 million.

At last week's THA Press conference, Assemblyman Hochoy Charles challenged the Ministry of Finance to authorise it to use any extra money in its account for recurrent expenditure.

Decision of Ministry Claims

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Aug 86 p 18

[Article by Gail Alexander]

[Text]

MISCHIEF-MAKING!

This is how the Tobago House of Assembly has described claims by the Ministry of Finance that the THA has cash reserves.

Head of the THA's Finance Division, Assemblyman Hochoy Charles, yesterday denounced last week's claim by Finance Ministry sources that the Assembly has two fixed deposits of \$16 million each, plus interest of \$6,046 at the NCB branch in Tobago.

The Ministry's statement came shortly after the Assembly held a Press conference in Port-of-Spain complaining of irregular funding by Government and ensuing problems.

Contacted on Tuesday, Mr Charles offered an explanation of certain monies in the Assembly's hands, but first had this to say:

"Such a claim is pure mischief making. If they can prove it why doesn't the Minister make a state-

ment on the matter. How can we respond to a statement when we don't know who is offering the information."

Mr Charles explained that the Assembly is trying to maximise use of the money it receives from Government by utilising two Fixed Call Deposits to earn interest for them:

Not Left Idle

"Funds allocated for certain projects are not always entirely exhausted

at once. Sometimes the money will be there until the job is complete. Instead of leaving it idle, we sometimes place it in a Seven-Day Call Deposit and let it earn interest which can be used to tide us over difficult times.

When payment on a job is due, the deposit is broken.

Mr Charles said he could not estimate how much money is in the two Fixed Call Deposits the Assembly has, apart from its main THA account:

"It is hard to say because it varies according to how payment for jobs

are done; it could be \$10 million, it could be \$25 million. Just last week we had to break one of the deposits to pay wages. But I am pretty certain this is what the Ministry is referring to when they say we have cash reserves."

He stressed that such monies could not be regarded as cash reserves since they are necessary to pay outstanding cheques at some point.

The Assemblyman added:

"Telling people how much money we have in the bank is out of the question, only the Auditor General can say what our position is.

TRADE WITH CARICOM REVIEWED, REGULATIONS EASED

Central Bank Action

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Aug 86 p 3

[Text] A more relaxed foreign exchange arrangement allowing for easier importation of goods from Caricom sources is to be introduced by the Central Bank from September 1.

Under the special regime, approval will be generally granted for the full amount of EC-O applications for imports from Caricom. But overall foreign exchange budgeting proceedings will remain in force for other countries.

Previously the EC-O system did not discriminate on sources of imports, but this new arrangement is expected to put trade between this country and other Caricom states on a free flow basis.

Details of the new system were disclosed yesterday when Industry and Commerce Minister, Senator Wendell Mottley, held a media briefing to give details of a new trade arrangement between this country and Barbados.

New Procedures

The measure was first announced during talks between the Minister and a delegation headed by his Barbados counterpart, Trade Minister Evelyn Greaves, in Port-of-Spain last week.

The new procedures are as follows:

--Local importers applying on Form EC-O will be required to specify only one Caricom country in respect of imports from the region.

--Applications must be specified in the currency of the relevant Caricom country and remittances on forms EC-1 must be specified and made only in the currency of the relevant Caricom country.

--Approval will generally be granted for the full amount of the EC-O applications in respect of importation from Caricom countries of goods which meet the rules of origin criteria under the Caricom Treaty.

--Where licence is required approval will be limited by the value stated on the licence.

Senator Mottley told the briefing that discussions with a Barbadian trade delegation in Port-of-Spain last Friday had been "very amicable" and agreement was reached on a number of new trade arrangements.

Representatives from the two countries agreed that there will be free trade in processed meat products and that Barbados will import pork meat from Trinidad and Tobago and other Caricom countries in preference to non-regional sources.

In addition, there will be continuous exchange of information between the two countries on the availability of pork meat for processing.

This country will allow into its market carrots, beetroots, onions and peanuts from Barbados and proper documentation and measures will be observed in keeping with existing regulations for trade in agricultural produce.

Reciprocal Access

There was also agreement on a level of exports of certain categories of garments from Barbados, but some regard was paid to the existing protective regime for the revitalisation of the local industry which expires in October, 1986.

Barbados will continue to grant reciprocal access to garments from this country and steps will be taken to harmonise protective regimes in the two countries against extra regional imports.

There will be limited soft drink exports from Trinidad and Tobago to Barbados under the agreement.

Both countries have agreed to "remove all impediments to trade" and have pinpointed trading difficulties caused by licensing and foreign exchange systems, declining purchasing power and abuse of rules of origin.

Acceptance of Commitments

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Aug 86 p 4

[Text] **BRIDGETOWN, Aug 13, Cana**
— TRINIDAD and Tobago has every intention of honouring its commitment to granting import licences and foreign exchange for the purchase of agricultural produce from Barbados and other Caribbean Community (Caricom) States, according to visiting Agriculture Minister Kamaluddin Mohamined.

Mr Mohammed said Trinidad and Tobago was prepared to stop importing from outside the region certain food crops — including peanuts, carrots and onions — which Barbados produced.

However, the importation of to-

matatoes would be controlled.

"In the case of tomatoes, we will control it seasonally. When we are short we will take. When we are not short we will tell Barbados we have a glut and can't take," Mr Mohammed told Cana.

He said Trinidad and Tobago was also prepared to buy substantially more vegetables from some of the Eastern Caribbean islands like St Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada.

Special Regime

Mr Mohammed said that while Trinidad and Tobago had promised to free up the licensing system, there was still a need to manage the country's foreign exchange.

"What we have explained is that so long as the foreign exchange is available, so long as the market does not have a tight situation in relation to local commodities, we will not invoke a Caricom agreement," he said.

Trinidad and Tobago recently gave a

Barbados trade mission headed by Trade and Commerce Minister Evelyn Greaves the assurance that it would allow entry of more Barbadian exports of vegetables, meat products and garments.

September 1 was the date set for the harmonising of the foreign exchange and licensing system.

The Trinidad and Tobago Central Bank announced this week that it would establish a special regime for Caricom exports within its ECO (foreign exchange application) system.

Barbadian and other Caricom manufacturers have repeatedly said they were frustrated and their businesses in trouble because of the unavailability of foreign exchange from Port-of-Spain despite previous assurances about a harmonisation of the licensing and foreign exchange system.

The Trinidad Agriculture Minister said people should bear in mind that oil in the twin-island Republic which used to be sold at US \$28 a barrel, bringing in foreign exchange, was now fetching only US \$8 to US \$10 a barrel.

More Academic

"The foreign exchange will have to be reserved for the more essential things which will have to be determined by the Government, therefore some kind of control is necessary. To say that we must abandon licences and exchange control is to say that we must commit suicide," Mr Mohammed asserted.

Trinidad and Tobago's domestic exports to Barbados were valued at TT\$66.5 million for the first six months of this year, compared to just over TT\$60 million for the same period last year.

Mr Mohammed said Trinidad and Tobago wanted the regional Food and Nutrition Strategy, aimed largely at reducing the Caribbean's massive food import bill, to be revised.

He described the Caricom plan to make the region self-sufficient in agricultural produce as more academic than practical.

He said a lot of paper work was done, but there were serious problems implementing the proposals outlined in the strategy.

"Things which they said we could not produce in Trinidad we are now producing," Mr Mohammed commented.

He said Trinidad and Tobago had managed to substantially reduce its food import bill over the last two to three years from \$928 million to \$761 million.

Increase in Exports

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 15 Aug 86 p 6

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago's exports to Caricom countries in the first six months of 1986 were approximately \$10 million more than in 1985.

This was revealed through a report from the Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs Ministry comparing Trinidad and Tobago exports between January to June, 1985 to the same period for 1986.

The exact figures reflecting this increase were \$253,870,000 to \$263,870,000. The largest increase took place in exports to Jamaica which moved from \$26,759,420 last year to \$52,419,874. Exports to

Barbados increased by five and a half million and to Grenada by six and a half million. Exports to Dominica doubled and trebled to Anguilla.

Conversely, exports to Guyana decreased from \$80,685,243 between January and June last year to \$53,969,894 this year. Domestic exports to Antigua also declined by approximately \$9 million and to St Lucia by \$5 million. Exports to Belize halved in that

period. Exports to the Bahamas decreased by \$1,520,617.

An exact breakdown of Trinidad and Tobago total trade with Barbados was also given from the years 1974 to 1985. It showed that the total trade with Barbados increased steadily within the period starting at \$53,127.1 moving to \$202,077.3 by 1985.

But the import/export scales have been very unbalanced. Exports for most of the years in this period far exceeded imports. Last year, exports valued \$151,346.4 while imports were \$50,730.9. For the first six months of this year, exports were \$66,346.4 while imports were \$16,877.7.

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CSO: 3298/538

NEW LAWS ON TERRITORIAL LIMITS CITED, SPARK OBJECTIONS

Oil Spill Issue

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 18 Aug 86 p 3

[Text] **IT WAS** Energy and National Resources Minister, Patrick Manning's, turn to face Opposition fire as the question of the oil spill in the Gulf of Paria was raised in the House of Representatives last Friday.

And during the verbal exchange between himself and Kelvin Ramnath, Member for Couva North, on the issue, Manning revealed he would be able to identify the source of the oil spill sometime this week.

The oil spill, which took place three weeks ago, was brought into the debate on the Exclusive Economic Zone Bill, the Continental Shelf (Amendment) Bill and the Territorial Sea (Amendment) Bill.

Ramnath charged oil companies with flaunting the regulations in respect of their operations. Since the multinationals were gone, he stated, it had to be State companies exercising this kind of neglect.

The oil spills were "major" he argued, adding that in one case it was as much as 2,000 barrels of crude oil. He wondered how the Energy Minister, who professed to be in contact with all the companies, was not yet in a position to say, which company was responsible for, "something which occurred three weeks ago."

He argued that a statement in Parliament should have been made by either the Energy Minister or the State Enterprises Minister on the oil spill. Could it be, he wondered aloud, that civil servants in the oil

companies (the "impartial" chairman of the Board of National Petroleum, for example), were hiding things from the Ministers?

Manning argued that steps to curb the oil spill were being taken. He referred too to the oil spill plan, which involved the supplying of cleaning chemicals by the Ministry for those fishermen whose boats had been affected by the spill.

He argued that the only way the source could be determined was through an analysis of petroleum samples. This was at present being conducted, he said.

Trevor Sudama, Member for Oropouche, believed he should not spend his time attacking

government's inefficiencies ("the people already know them"). He opted instead for a detailed account of the National Alliance for Reconstruction's plan for exploiting the marine resources. The NAR government, he said, would put in place the marine research facilities as well as the physical facilities to aid in the development of marine reserves. The party would also set up an inventory to determine the allowable catch, a significant mechanism for protecting the economic zone, he added.

'Coverup' Charge

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 20 Aug 86 p 44

[Text]

ST PATRICK County Councillor Basdeo Manmohansingh has accused the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of covering up the source of the oil spill in the Gulf of Paria to delay compensation for fishermen.

The *Express* learnt that claims made to the

company by 120 fishermen amount to almost \$360,000. Manmohansingh said: "The same thing happened when fire struck killing 14 men at Trintoc Pointe-a-Pierre some months ago."

Councillor Manmohansingh, local representative for Cedros,

expressed strong dissatisfaction with the Energy Minister, Patrick Manning, for trying to browbeat the fishermen who are still grounded because of the spill which occurred almost one month ago.

Referring to an article in Monday's *Express*, about Manning's res-

ponse in Parliament, about steps to curb the spill, Manmohansingh said, "the whole thing about cleaning up the beach was a sham. The Ministry in collaboration with an oil company sent a backhoe and a crew to Fullerton for a couple

days to clean up the beach, but other beaches are affected just the same. Seabathers dare not venture into beaches at Bonas, St Marie, Granville and surrounding areas. Fullerton fishermen are still grounded because of the heavy tar-like substance lining the shores."

Fishermen have sent a claim to the Cedros Fishing Cooperative claiming damages to boats nets and anchor ropes. They have since been sitting idle awaiting word and action from the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources.

Opposition Skepticism

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 19 Aug 86 p 3

[Article by David Renwick]

[Text]

IT WASN'T the surveillance of the proposed 200-mile exclusive economic zone being created by the package of new laws now under discussion in the House of Representatives that worried Opposition speakers in the debate yesterday so much as Trinidad and Tobago's ability to benefit economically from this major extension of its resource base.

Winston Dookeran (Chaguana) had no doubt the country was "unprepared" for the opportunities likely to be opened up and that little "pre-planning" had taken place. The Government should have set-up a "coast line

and sea bed development authority" to "determine the extent of the resources available."

In the absence of such an organisation, "the real potential" of the exclusive economic zone, the archipelagic state and the continental shelf were unlikely to be realised.

Pamela Nicholson (Tobago East) was equally skeptical, point-

ing out that Barbadian and other fishermen had already extracted substantial quantities of fish from the area covered by the proposed zone. It was a rather belated move now to try to "hurry this legislation along" simply because "Trinidad and Tobago is now working with the Barbadians to try and finalise an agreement."

Dr Cuthbert Joseph, Public Utilities and National Transportation Minister, stoutly defended what had been criticised as the Government's slow pace in bringing the bills.

[Text]

CABINET has agreed to regulations relating to fishing and trawling in the coastal waters around Trinidad and Tobago.

This was revealed by Rep Kamaluddin Mohammed, Minister of Agriculture Lands and Food Production, in the House of Representatives on Monday night during debate on three Bills dealing with the law of the sea and the territorial waters of the country.

The regulations allow for bottom trawling not to be allowed in varying mileages outside the coastline around the country to control and preserve the fishing resources.

Mr Mohammed explained that the regulations were drawn up following discussions with persons and organisations involved in fishing. The Bills before the House which were passed on Monday night were to declare Trinidad and Tobago an Archipelagic State and define an exclusive economic zone to implement provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the sea. One of the Bills amended the Territorial Sea Act while the other amended the Continental Shelf Act.

In winding up debate on the Bill, Rep Errol Mahabir, Minister of External Affairs, said in replying to Opposition comments that delay in enacting the legislation was because the Government could not propose implementing legislation before in respect of the treaty, which it only ratified on April 25 this year.

Clear Principles

He said Trinidad and Tobago had always based its international relations on clear principles of international law and the legislation and its timing was an example of "our adherence to the international rule of law in international affairs."

Relating to Trinidad and Tobago/Venezuela relations, Mr Mahabir said that bilateral discussions were going on between the two countries.

He said that discussions with Venezuela had gone reasonably well and the talks were in respect of partial delimitation. "We will continue our bilateral discussions with Venezuela," he assured, adding that the country also had to have bilateral agreements with other countries.

Relating to fishing, Mr Mahabir said that fishermen had indicated that once the fishing permits were issued they did not have any problems while engaging in shrimping activities within the special fishing areas within Venezuelan waters. However they had expressed concern, he said, that they were not able with the fullest confidence to engage in fishing activities in the area south of Trinidad and North of Venezuela. The matter was raised at the Trinidad and Tobago/Venezuela Fishing Commission meeting in July, and the Venezuelans had assured that the Venezuelan Coast Guard authorities were made aware of the terms of the Fishing agreement between the two countries.

Referring to complaints that Barbados fishermen were fishing in waters off Tobago, he said that Cabinet had taken cognisance of the matter and a team was reviewing all aspects of the matter before holding talks with the Barbadian Government on the matter.

Resource Assessment

Commenting on implementation of the legislation and enforcement of the provisions, he said that the Bill will confer the necessary powers on the law enforcement agencies not only in respect of the territorial sea, but also in respect of the archipelagic waters and the 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone.

The Minister said that he felt that without any formal structure being put in place, it will be possible for Trinidad and Tobago fishermen as well as sports fishermen to bring to the attention of the Coast Guard the presence of foreign fishing craft operating in particular areas on a regular basis. It will help the Coast Guard in patrolling and protecting the national patrimony.

Minister Mahabir said that the implementation of the conservation and management aspects of the Bill will require resource assessments to be undertaken. Already in the pipeline, he said is a Trinidad and Tobago/FAO resource assessment project. The Institute of Marine Affairs can play a vital role, he said.

Mr Mahabir noted that the Bill complemented the existing powers of the Coast Guard.

Comment on Shortcomings

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 Aug 86 p 8

[Text] In its last session, the House of Representatives dutifully passed the Archipelagic Waters and Exclusive Economic Zone Act 1986 defining our country's offshore economic zone.

That was a long overdue move, and no one can doubt that the country needed the legal backing for assuming control of all mineral and fishing rights off our shores.

But will there be any difference once we have the law on the books? Will the trawlers stop damaging the valuable spawning grounds off our coasts? Will there be any greater control of smuggling of drugs, arms, whisky and illegal immigrants from neighbouring countries?

The legislation does not deal specifically with such matters, but it should have come when the relevant authorities were able to enforce the law.

We have enough laws but not enough enforcement. We cannot protect the public adequately from reckless drivers, from the depredations of criminals or from vagrants in the towns. We cannot protect our environment from pollution, our wildlife from poachers, our rivers from deliberate dumping of rubbish. Yet we have laws enough for all of these.

Protecting marine resources and our coastline needs a properly functioning Coast Guard, and that is something we cannot claim.

Late last year Guardian writer George Harvey commented that "Coast Guard boats scarcely leave port on patrol for various reasons. Local fishermen complain regularly of not seeing their navy around while braving the waters and dodging neighbourly Venezuelan Coast Guards. Coast Guard boats remain at home immobilised for lack of parts."

He also noted that despite the known drug connection with Venezuela, our Coast Guard was not making drug seizures at sea, and our shores were a virtual open house for entry of the good, the bad and the ungodly.

It was a harsh judgment, and there may have been some improvements since then. But we cannot say that our Coast Guard now has a position of regularly patrolling our coast line, and keeping all lawbreakers and evil doers wary and uneasy.

Until the navy gets the right equipment, the necessary maintenance system, the parts, and the will to police our shores, laws such as those passed on Friday and regulations approved by the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries for offshore control will remain dead letters.

Port of Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 22 Aug 86 pp 20-21

[Text]

THE Archipelagic Waters and Exclusive Economic Zone Act, 1986, which would give Trinidad and Tobago control of more of the resources in its surrounding waters is being debated in Parliament.

The new Bill proposes, as its major objective, to implement certain provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982, which attempts to regulate the competing and potentially conflicting uses of the Sea and to divide its resources in accordance with modern principles of international justice.

Trinidad and Tobago which was among the first states to sign the U.N. Convention, in 1982, ratified it on April 25, 1986. By December 9, 1984, closing date for signatures, 159 states, the overwhelming majority of the international community, had signed the Convention.

As of May 5, 1985, some 26 states had ratified the Convention, which will come into force one year after 60 states have ratified the Treaty, indicating their consent to be bound by it.

It is this Convention which makes provision for the regime of an archipelagic state and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

When the Act now before Parliament becomes law, Trinidad and Tobago would have been written into the statute books as an archipelagic state. The territory which according to one estimate comprises 23 islands of various sizes, qualifies as an archipelago under the terms of the Convention. An archipelago, states the UN document, "means a group of islands, including parts of islands, interconnecting waters and other natural features which are so clearly inter-related that such islands, waters and other natural features form an intrinsic geographical, economic and political entity, or which historically have been regarded as such."

Under the regime of the archipelagic state, Trinidad and Tobago may draw straight baselines joining the outermost islands, provided that within such baselines are included the main islands and an area

in which the ratio of the area of water to the area of land is between 1 to 1 and 9 to 1. Trinidad and Tobago will enjoy sovereignty over the waters enclosed by the archipelagic baselines, regardless of their depth or distance. The country's sovereignty also extend to the air space over the archipelagic waters and to the seabed, subsoil and their resources.

An important feature of the archipelagic state regime is that the several maritime zones — the EEZ, the territorial sea, the continental shelf and the contiguous zone — are to be measures from the archipelagic baselines and not from the low water-line, as would normally be the case, making it central to other maritime regimes.

In the EEZ, which stretches to a maximum of 200 nautical miles from the archipelagic baselines, the state exercises, not sovereignty, but sovereign rights for exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources, living or non-living of the water column, seabed and subsoil. The EEZ regime will also afford the country jurisdiction over the establishment and use of artificial islands, installations and structures and marine scientific research.

A major implication of the EEZ, in as much as it allocates extensive areas of marine space to the jurisdiction of coastal states, is that areas which were formerly high seas and therefore legally open to all states are now under the control

of individual states. Consequently, access to areas where fishermen of neighbouring territories habitually fished will now be denied except to the extent that appropriate agreements have been negotiated with the respective coastal states. The Trinidad and Tobago/Venezuela Fishing Agreement signed on November 26, 1985 is one such example.

Laws relating to two other zones — the territorial sea and the continental shelf have already been promulgated by the Trinidad and Tobago Parliament. Two Amendment Bills, however, which together with the Archipelagic Waters and Exclusive Economic Zone Act, 1986, form a package of Bills on the law of the sea are also before the House. The Territorial Sea (Amendment) Act, 1986, has become necessary with the country's assumption of archipelagic status and the Continental Shelf (Amendment) Act, 1986 redefines the shelf.

The territorial sea extends the country's sovereignty beyond the landmass and archipelagic waters to a distance of 12 nautical miles from the archipelagic baselines, giving the state sovereignty over the air space, seabed and subsoil as well as the water column.

A major difficulty associated with the EEZ, and indeed with the territorial sea, in the Caribbean context where only meagre distance intervene between neighbouring territories, relates to the delimitation of national boundaries. Trinidad is, at its nearest point, some nine miles from Venezuela. Grenada is some 90 miles from Trinidad.

In instances such as these, the Convention states that delimitation of boundaries should be effected either by agreement or on the basis of international law to achieve an equitable solution. With regard to the territorial sea, the Convention supports the principle of a medium line (a dividing line joining points equidistance from opposing or adjacent coasts) as one method of arriving at a just decision.

The Continental Shelf regime predates the EEZ regime and relates to the submarine areas covered by the EEZ. Like the EEZ, it gives the state sovereign rights over the seabed and subsoil to a distance of 200 miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. It, however, does not affect the legal status of the water column which without an EEZ will be high seas. The Continental Shelf regime carries the additional provision that where the outer edge of the continental margin (the submerged prolongation of the country's landmass) extends beyond 200 miles, the sovereign rights of the country may extend even further.

The contiguous zone which adjoins the territorial sea extends to a maximum of 24 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. In this zone the state may exercise the control necessary to prevent contravention of its laws relating to immigration, customs, fiscal and sanitary matters and may punish vessels which have committed breaches of those laws while within national territory.

With the ratification of the U.N. Convention and the introduction of this package of bills in Parliament, Trinidad and Tobago has shown its resolve to control its marine resources and has played its part in the progressive development and codification of international maritime law.

HINDU COMMUNITY LEADER MAKES APPEAL FOR UNITY

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 18 Aug 86 p 26

[Text]

THE leader of the major section of the Hindu community has called for unity among all Hindu groups in the country.

Dharma Acharya Pandit Krishna, head of the Pandits' Parishad said he was supporting several calls for unity which had been made from various Hindu leaders. It is important, he said that Hindus unite because: "No one but the Hindu will protect Hindu values, and it is the Hindu who will nourish and sustain the Hindu ethos."

He added: "A unified presentation of Hindu perceptions and aspirations to the establish-

ment and to our plural structured society is therefore a natural corollary. It is only then that any serious and intelligent consideration will be given to the Hindu presence.

The Dharma Acharya made these comments when he spoke at a Vishnu Yagna at Clarke Road, Penal recently.

Pundit Krishna, Dharma Acharya of the Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha since February of this year, selected the topic of Hindu unity for his address at the inauguration of the Yagna.

He said that the Hindu youths of today are more aware of their Hindu heritage and are addressing themselves to "sustenance, pride, dignity, togetherness and security."

He added, "We need Hindu unity to arrest the direction of our society and its value systems ... At present, individuals have less and less care for the welfare and prosperity of the other. Hindu unity is required to herald a system of values appropriate to the development of our national consciousness. Hinduism has those values."

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CSO: 3298/538

BUSINESSES FAIL TO RESPOND TO MOVES BY CENTRAL BANK

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 15 Aug 86 p 6

[Text]

ALMOST two months after the Central Bank announced liquidity-easing measures to bring life back into the country's business activity, the market continues to fail to respond.

This comment comes from the Stock Market and Economic Review compiled by Clouden & Clouden Investment Ltd. in its quarterly publication released yesterday.

Said the review: "Although these measures by the Central Bank were introduced primarily to ease liquidity and reduce interest rates, the market does not appear to recognise or discount them as yet. This slow response can be attributed to the lag time associated with such policy or possibly the added caution on the part of borrowers and lenders."

Other points noted by the report were:

●The failure of the market to develop any

momentum out of its bearish posture is likely to continue as many of Clouden & Clouden Investments technical indicators show near-term market weakness.

●There is a prevailing mood of disillusionment and cautious attitude towards investment due to concerns over safety and liquidity in the financial market. These factors were highlighted even further by the sharp reductions in the banks' after tax profits and dividends during the first six months of their present fiscal year plus the consequent 15% drop in the Banking Sector Index to 35.85 for the past year.

●Notwithstanding the fall in short-to-medium term interest rates, many of the banks still show significant depreciation in their investment portfolios and this could place additional downward pressures on their stock-prices.

●The favourable trade balance of \$5763 million for the period January to May this year was not reflected in the Trading

Sector Index which slipped another 33 per cent to 204 in the year between June 1985 and 1986.

●Agostini's Ltd was the only company in the trading sector to show consistent price increases- the result mainly of its balance sheet, market position and corporate strategy.

Clouden & Clouden recommendations to investors: carefully reassess stop-loss points and where necessary, raise it as much as possible to protect against another downdraft.

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CSO: 329:/538

REPORT ON PUBLIC DEBT SHOWS 1-YEAR \$538 MILLION INCREASE

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 1 Aug 86 p 3

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago's public debt at December 31, 1985, was \$3.6 billion, according to the report of the Auditor-General laid in Parliament yesterday. This is an increase of \$537.9 million over a period of one year.

Of the total amount owed, \$1.3 billion is owed locally while \$2.3 billion is owed in external loans.

Under the heading *Loans from Revenue*, the report says new loans totalling \$872.1 million were made to a number of state-owned bodies, including the Port Authority, the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (TTEC), and BWIA. A loan of \$120.6 million went to the Port Authority, \$44.1 million went to TTEC, and \$37.9 million to BWIA.

Orange Grove National Co Ltd borrowed \$17 million, Caroni (1975) Ltd \$197.8 million, the Public Transport Service Commission (PTSC) \$162.7 million, and the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) \$233.8 million.

The National Energy Corporation (NEC) borrowed \$4.6 million, according to the Auditor's Report, the Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago (ISCOTT) \$50 million, and the Chaguaramas Development Authority \$3 million. St Anthony's College got \$440,000 and \$48,275 was lent to students.

Still under the heading *Loans from Revenue*, the report says the total of loan balances outstanding at December 31, 1985, "is understated by \$3.08 billion and should read \$5.6 billion."

Later it notes: "Repayments were not made on 168 loans totalling \$5.5 billion during the year."

The report states also that the Exchequer Account has been overdrawn by \$938 million.

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CSO: 3298/538

GOVERNMENT SEES RECOVERY IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 13 Aug 86 p 12

[Text] THERE is evidence of recovery in Trinidad and Tobago's agricultural sector.

Agriculture, Lands and Food Production Minister, Kamaluddin Mohammed, made this statement in an address at the 19th Regional Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Latin America and the Caribbean, taking place in Barbados.

"There is evidence of recovery in the agricultural sector, which commenced in 1984 having continued into 1985; both domestic and export agriculture grew stronger, the sector as a whole experiencing an increase in real GDP of 8.7 per cent," Mohammed said.

The Food Import Bill which in 1976 rose from \$321.3 million to \$928.8 million has declined, commencing in 1984 and into 1985 to a level of \$762 million, he added.

He went on to say, "we speak with some pride of our achievements in self-sufficiency in relation to pork and poultry supplies, but there is a real element of concern in all this."

Mohammed explained that, "to a large extent, in the region we are 'assembly plants' for these products since the imports of cereals and grains, which include rice, maize and feed ingredients for the livestock industry, have averaged in recent years at least 95 per cent of our total domestic requirements."

This, he said, indicated that the area of self-sufficiency were founded on a dangerously insecure level of import dependency. Domestic capability for meat averages 30 per cent and for milk 10 per cent, Mohammed said.

The Government, failed to intro-

duce new policies to coincide with the social and economic changes, and having kept the colonial organisational patterns, there were "structural deficiencies" within the agricultural sector, he said.

The FAO, at the request of the Government, assisted under the Technical Co-operation Programme and prepared in-depth analysis of the sector together with recommendations for strategic intervention in both the long-term and short-term.

"We are able to report success in projects involving farm management, artisanal fisheries and upper watershed management," Mohammed said.

"The level of success, especially in the establishment of institutional capability, has been such that Trinidad and Tobago has been assigned coordinating responsibility as a regional centre of excellence for the technical cooperation networks in artisanal fisheries and upper watershed management."

Outlining priority areas within the sector for the development in the near future Mohammed focused on: aquaculture, dairy and livestock production, with as well as increased production of small ruminants.

The Government has also indicated that FAO's expertise on embryo transfer technology would also be required.

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CSO: 3298/538

FUTURE OF SUGAR INDUSTRY LIES IN CANE FARMING

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 26 Jul 86 p 5

[Text]

THE future of the sugar industry would depend more and more on the cane farming sector.

So said Russell Wotherspoon, general manager of Caroni (1975) Ltd, at the inter-religious thanksgiving for the 1986 crop and a memorial service for the late S. Norman Girwar, former president of the Trinidad Islandwide Cane Farmers Association, Friday night.

Wotherspoon said he was glad that the Government decided to make 5,000 acres of land available to farmers since this would bring into cultivation an approximate minimum of 85,000 tonnes of cane.

"It is a fact that cane farmers are more cost efficient producers of cane than the company," he said.

He also said farmers played an important role in the diversification process being conducted by the company since they were "diversifying long before us and we have learnt, and are learning," from their experiences.

Wotherspoon spoke too of the current problems which Caribbean

sugar faced on the international market, given the competition from beet sugar, the shrinking US quota and the monopoly of the Tate and Lyle refineries.

He said every country was scaling down the size of its sugar industry to satisfy its guaranteed market, "since any production over the guarantee only subsidises the developed world."

He said the sugar association has asked for concerted diplomatic efforts to deal with the question of the US quota and the Tate and Lyle situation.

But he stressed, however, the final market and size of the Trinidad and Tobago sugar industry, it was a fact Caroni would have to rely on the cane farmers for its supply.

Wotherspoon noted that with respect to the present crop, that had it not been for the combined effects of the work-to-rule, and "malicious and unplanned" fires, Caroni would have produced for the first time since 1980, over 96,000 tonnes of sugar, or 4,000 tonnes less than its mandated 100,000 tonnes.

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BRIEFS

UNION ACTION--The Communication Workers' Union this week rejected a proposal from the management of Catelli Primo Limited to reduce the work week of its hourly and monthly-paid staff to four days. The measure was to be instituted from last Monday, but union officials contended that it would result in a 20 per cent decrease in the take-home pay of the workers. Company officials said the reduced work week was necessary because a decrease in sales over an eight-month period and projected further decreases made it impossible to sustain current salary levels. But this claim was not accepted by CWU which blamed "inept sales management" for many of the financial problems facing the company. The union noted that for the first quarter of this year the company was on a drive to increase productivity by 25 per cent. Workers responded to the call only to be told that they had over-produced and the company's warehouses were filled with unsold stock. The union has threatened to take the matter to the Industrial Court if workers are forced to accept salary reductions. [Text][Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Aug 86 p 3]/12828

TRINTOC PRODUCTION--TRINTOC's public relations department announced in its July bulletin that the average crude production on land for that month was 20,544 barrels per day and its marine production 12,069, making an overall daily production of 32,613 barrels. In a determined bid to reduce costs, Trintoc, in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, commissioned a new lease automatic crude transfer unit which now takes crude oil from Brighton to Forest Reserve. The unit, commissioned last month was introduced because the company found that the old system in which the tank farm was used was "much too costly to maintain." Trintoc's production supervisor Wayne Mitchell started the new unit by pressing a button to send "fiscalised oil from Brighton to Forest Reserve. Trintoc also reported that the catalyst change-out was completed and the platformer unit of the Point Fortin Complex was returned to service on July 22. It was said that the unit was currently processing 2,100 tons per day of feedstock and that all three units in the complex were now on stream. Re-commissioning of the recycle compressor at the Complex "has increased the utilisation of hydrogen, thereby improving the capability of the units, especially the hydrogenator," the company stated. [Text][Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Aug 86 p 13]/12828

CSO: 3298/538

URUGUAY

HAVANA REPORTS AMNESTY BILL GOES TO CONGRESS

PA281706 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Aug 86

[Report by Nelson Santos in Montevideo, Uruguay]

[Text] While the parliament is getting ready to discuss a government bill to grant amnesty to all the soldiers and policemen who have committed crimes against humanity during the past military dictatorship in Uruguay, a group of members of social organizations is holding a 5-day hunger strike to protest such a government measure. The hunger strike is being held under the slogan: Against Impunity, For Truth and Justice.

On 25 August, anniversary of the independence of Uruguay, an important group of relatives of people who disappeared during the dictatorship went to the site of the official festivities to present a letter addressed to President Julio Maria Sanguinetti. The relatives of men, women, and children who disappeared and who were presumably killed during the repression stated in their letter that the only thing they are demanding is the truth about what took place, and that justice prevail. The letter added: The amnesty for the crimes against humanity, for the crimes committed from positions of power, goes against the evolution of law in the civilized world. When this letter was delivered, the transportation and public works minister, who spoke on behalf of the government, said that the country needs to bury its past and that the people do not want the past but the future.

The legislative debate of the government-sponsored amnesty bill will begin this week in the 31-member Senate. The ruling Colorado Party has 14 senators, so the possibility of the bill's passage depends on the support of opposition sectors. This is not very likely, especially because the centrist opposition National Party, and the Broad Front, the leftist coalition, have their own bills that they may combine into a single one that instructs the civilian courts to investigate cases of assassination, disappearances, and tortures; and try those responsible.

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